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**From:** Jorjani, Daniel  
**Sent:** 2017-10-23T16:13:22-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: FOR REVIEW: NPR-A O&G Lease Sale Materials  
**Received:** 2017-10-23T16:14:10-04:00  
NPRA OilAndGas Lease Sale CommPlan Final.doc

OK?

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Rigas, Laura <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**Date:** Mon, Oct 23, 2017 at 4:12 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: FOR REVIEW: NPR-A O&G Lease Sale Materials  
**To:** Todd Willens <todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, "Wackowski, Stephen" <stephen\_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>, Lori Mashburn <lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov>, "Chambers, Micah" <micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, "Wynn, Todd" <todd\_wynn@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Katharine Macgregor <kate\_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Vincent Devito <vincent\_devito@ios.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** Heather Swift <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>, "Newell, Russell" <russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov>

Hi all --

Below please find BLM's draft release for the NPR-A oil and gas lease sale. It is set to publish on Thursday, Oct. 26 in the Federal Register, and be in the reading room on Wednesday (ie, will become public then). Micah is reaching out to the AK delegation to make them aware. Boss asked that we do a media event with them, and we are checking on availability/feasibility. Question -- should this be tied to the "Energy Burdens" report roll-out? If so, we could just include it in Wednesday's DOI release and BLM could send out what's below as a follow-on. Thanks,

L

*Laura Keehner Rigas  
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## **BLM announces December 2017 NPR-A oil & gas lease sale**

**ANCHORAGE**— In keeping with the Administration's goal of achieving American energy dominance, the Bureau of Land Management today announced in the Federal Register that it will hold an oil and gas lease sale in December within part of the 22.8-million-acre National

Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) via video livestream.

“The Department of the Interior will harness our nation’s Arctic resources on public lands – both onshore and offshore – in order to ensure an energy-dominant future for the citizens of this great country,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “Alaska has long been an energy powerhouse and is home to one of our greatest energy infrastructure projects – the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). The energy development that comes from lease sales in the NPR-A will ensure that TAPS continues to bring American energy to the people who need it long into the future.”

The December 6, 2017, sale will be the 13th in the NPR-A since 1999, and will include all available tracts (covering 10.3 million acres) for lease. This is the first time all 900 tracts have been offered for lease. These tracts were designated as available for development in the 2013 Record of Decision for the Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the NPR-A.

“BLM Alaska is committed to supporting energy development while fostering responsible stewardship of the environment,” said Karen Mouritsen, Acting State Director for BLM Alaska. This December lease sale and future lease sales in the NPR-A demonstrate this Administration’s commitment to the long term energy strength and economic growth of the State of Alaska.”

There are currently 189 authorized leases in the NPR-A, covering more than 1,372,688 acres. Bids received for the 12 previous sales generated more than \$280 million, half of which was paid to the State of Alaska.

From Aug. 7 through Sept 6 of this year, the BLM sought public input and nominations on all tracts within the NPR-A. The BLM received numerous comments and nominations on tracts available and unavailable for leasing.

In February 2015, the BLM issued the Record of Decision for the Greater Mooses Tooth 1 oil and gas development project, opening the way for the first production of oil and gas on public land in the NPR-A. A second, proposed development project within the reserve, called Greater Mooses Tooth 2, is currently under environmental review by the BLM.

The upcoming oil and gas lease sales are competitive. A detailed statement of sale, including a description of the tracts offered for lease, the lease terms, conditions and special stipulations, and how and where to submit the sealed bids, will be available at <https://on.doi.gov/2fgHGRq>.

Sealed bids must be received by 4 p.m. (AKST) on Dec. 4, at the BLM-Alaska State Office. The BLM will open sealed bids submitted on the tracts offered at 1 p.m. (AKST) on Dec. 6, and will livestream the opening of the bids at [www.blm.gov/live](http://www.blm.gov/live).

**COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**  
**National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska**  
**Oil and Gas Lease Sale**  
December 2017

This is a draft communications plan covering the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) oil and gas lease sale to be held Dec. 6, 2017, via livestream in Anchorage. This plan outlines the major goals and stages to be achieved prior to the sale. This document is subject to revision, as conditions and situations warrant.

**Goals:**

- Inform the public, media, industry, and interested groups about the NPR-A Oil and Gas Lease Sale 2017 and process, and the change to livestreaming for the opening of bids for this sale, rather than a public meeting venue.
- Communicate the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oil and gas lease sale process, including available tracts and how to submit sealed bids.
- Build opportunities for lasting cooperative and collaborative relationships with the State of Alaska in coordinating same-day lease sales for the North Slope.

**Objectives:**

- Communicate with the public about the oil and gas lease sale process.
- Identify and utilize technologies and methods to provide lessees and the public with convenient and timely access to information.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of livestreaming for the opening of bids based on statistical information on participation and audience input.
- Provide convenient, meaningful, and timely opportunities for interested lessees to understand and participate in the lease sale process, as well as their obligations as lessees.
- Obtain relevant lease sale and bid information from prospective lessees.

**Opportunities for Public Input**

BLM Alaska will accept sealed bids during the bid period, and will welcome informal public input, provided in written, verbal, and online form, anytime during the process.

BLM Alaska will provide information about the preparation and content of the lease sale to the public through a variety of means. BLM Alaska will issue a news release and post online (website and social media) announcing the date of the sale, how to submit sealed bids, and how to view the opening of bids via livestreaming. Following the sale, BLM Alaska will issue a news release and post online (website and social media) announcing the results of the sale. BLM Alaska will adapt communication techniques and methods to meet the needs of rural and Alaska Native communities. BLM Alaska will also use social media to inform the public about the lease sale process and post results.

## TARGET AUDIENCES

The target audience includes Alaska media, North Slope Borough, North Slope village residents, state, federal, and local units of government, the Alaska Congressional delegation, industry groups, research monitoring teams, conservation and environmental groups, the BLM Alaska Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and the North Slope and Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Panel, and North Slope Science Initiative.

The news media are also a key audience that can assist in widely publicizing the planning effort and opportunities for public involvement. Key news media for this planning effort include:

- *Alaska Dispatch News*
- *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*
- KTVA 11 local CBS TV news affiliate
- KTUU 2 local NBC TV news affiliate
- KAKM 7 local Fox TV news affiliate
- Alaska Public Radio

## KEY MESSAGES

- The BLM supports energy independence through environmentally responsible development.
- The energy resources of the NPR-A are essential to meeting our nation's energy demands and will enhance domestic energy production and decrease dependency on foreign oil sources.
- BLM Alaska is conducting the Dec. 6, 2017, NPR-A oil and gas lease sale with 900 tracts (approximately 10.3 million acres) within the NPR-A available for leasing. These are all of the tracts available for leasing under the 2013 NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS).
- This is the first time BLM Alaska will use the latest technologies to provide access to the lease sale to all publics, whether they are located in Anchorage or in a remote village, such as those on the North Slope.
- The 2017 oil and gas lease sale for the NPR-A does not conflict with areas that are unavailable for leasing under the Record of Decision for the NPR-A IAP/EIS, signed by the Secretary of the Interior on Feb. 21, 2013.
- The U.S. Geological Survey is currently re-assessing the oil and gas resources for the petroleum reserve as new discoveries have surpassed previous data.
- Existing performance based stipulations and best management practices can be used to mitigate resource impacts and allow greater flexibility and responsible development

## PRODUCTS

- *Federal Register* notice(s)
- Week Ahead Report (internal)

- News release(s)
- Website (BLM.gov/Alaska In the Spotlight)
- Email to selected individuals (requested notification by email)
- Social media (Twitter, Facebook)
- Meeting materials (maps, posters, presentations, etc.)

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A “Call for Nominations and Comments” published and nominations were requested for a period 30 days with a notice in the *Federal Register* on August 7, 2017. Bids will be accepted starting on the date of the lease sale Notice in the *Federal Register* through Monday, Dec. 4, 2017.

## **ACTION PLAN**

The following table outlines the NPR-A oil and gas lease sale public participation opportunities.

<b>Audience</b>	<b>Method/Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Date</b>
Congressional Delegation	Brief Anchorage congressional staffers	AK 912/AK932	One day prior to publication in the Federal Register
North Slope Borough Mayor Native Village of Nuiqsut Arctic Slope Regional Corporation	Phone call	Arctic District Manager	One day prior to publication in the Federal Register
Interested Stakeholders	News release	AK912	Upon publication in the Federal Register
RAC	Briefing	AK910/AK 932	November 2017
Web visitors	Post Detailed Statement of Sale	AK912/AK932	Late October 2017
Media	News release	AK912	Late October 2017

## **CONTACTS:**

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