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Governor Sean Parnell  
STATE OF ALASKA

December 29, 2011

Mr. Harry A. Baij  
Department of the Army  
United States Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District  
Regulatory Division  
P.O. Box 6898  
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK 99506-0898

Re: Point Thomson Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Dear Mr. Baij,

The State of Alaska will continue promoting American energy independence, energy security, and economic growth by commenting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Point Thomson project, which was released by the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for public comment along with a Public Notice of Application for Permit on November 18, 2011. The State continues to fully support production at Point Thomson, which would help offset current declines in North Slope production and maintain efficiency of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS).

Over the past 20 years, Alaska North Slope production has steadily declined to its current level of about 640,000 barrels per day. Faced with steadily declining Alaska oil production, a faltering national economy, and energy instability due to our country's reliance on foreign oil, I put forth an ambitious goal for Alaska to increase TAPS throughput to one million barrels of oil production per day within a decade.

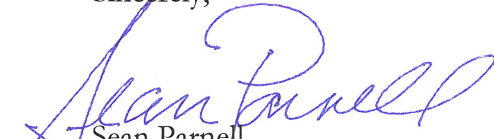
Bringing Point Thomson development online will certainly move us to increased production, grow economic opportunity, and lessen dependency on foreign sources of energy. Additionally, the field's development is also a likely necessary prerequisite for a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope. For these reasons, the State is keenly interested in ensuring that the Point Thomson leaseholders can move forward to develop this field in a diligent and timely manner.

The comments provided on the DEIS are intended to help the Army Corps of Engineers, as the lead federal agency for the DEIS, comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations in 40 CFR Part 1500. The State of Alaska remains a strong proponent of timely decision making and the collaborative working relationship among cooperating agencies for the remainder of the EIS process, as well as the subsequent permitting of the proposed project.

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General and page specific comments intended to strengthen the DEIS are enclosed, as well as a letter addressed to Secretary Salazar on the DEIS. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. I look forward to our continued efforts together in providing energy to the nation.

Sincerely,



Sean Parnell  
Governor

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Daniel Sullivan, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Randy Ruaro, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
Kip Knudson, Director of State and Federal Relations, Office of the Governor  
Jeff Jones, Special Assistant, Office of the Governor  
Joseph Balash, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Ed Fogels, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
William Barron, Director, Division of Oil and Gas, Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
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