


STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

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February 24, 1987

Mr. Robert Gilmore
Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr.  Gilmore:

The State of Alaska appreciates the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) effort to seek early public involvement in planning for the non-1002 portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) as reflected in the January 2, 1987, ANWR Alternatives Workbook.

Since the workbook is limited to a general summary of proposed management alternatives generated to date, more detailed comments from state agencies will be made later based on review of the full draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). At this early stage we wish to note that the state's general comments on previous CCP's would apply to ANWR as well.

These include:

- the need for a broader range of alternatives pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which would include greater consideration of the moderate and intensive management categories;
- concerns regarding the FWS process for determining compatibility of oil and gas activities on refuge lands;
- maintaining opportunities for on-shore facilities in support of off-shore oil and gas activities;
- maintaining flexibility regarding provisions for fish and wildlife management techniques and facilities;
- maintaining opportunities for continued subsistence, commercial and recreational use of fish and wildlife resources, including adequate provisions for support facilities, equipment and access.

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ANWR Non-1002 Alternatives

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In addition to the general concerns noted above, the state also wishes to submit the following comments on the collection and use of existing and future geological and geophysical data on the non-1002 portion of the refuge.

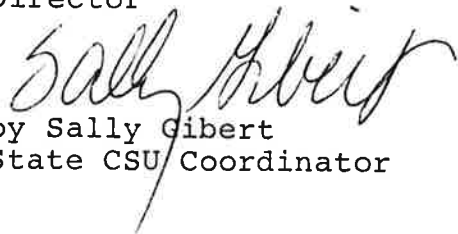
An analysis of recently acquired geophysical data obtained for the oil and gas resource assessments of the 1002 area indicates the presence of large subsurface structures trending east of the Aichilik River from the 1002 area into Congressionally designated wilderness located to the east. In addition, surficial geologic mapping along Leffingwell Ridge, which extends into this region, also indicates the presence of good source and reservoir rocks.

We urge that the draft CCP acknowledge this new information, even though the existing wilderness designation precludes the development of any oil and gas that actually may be present. This new information could be extremely useful in understanding the overall oil and gas potential of the coastal plain. We also request that the FWS forward the results of these new geological and geophysical studies to Congress in the final 1002 report for its consideration at such time as ANWR oil and gas issues are addressed. Furthermore, we believe this information highlights the need to complete the mineral assessment program pursuant to ANILCA Section 1010. The CCP, when adopted, should also maintain existing opportunities for geological and geophysical exploration throughout the non-1002 portion of the refuge, especially on lands adjacent to the 1002 area.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these preliminary alternatives. The State of Alaska looks forward to continued participation in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge planning process and review of the upcoming draft CCP.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Grogan
Director


by Sally Gibert
State CSU Coordinator

cc: Senator Rick Halford, CACFA, Fairbanks
Commissioner Brady, DNR, Juneau
Commissioner Collinsworth, DFG, Juneau
Commissioner Gutierrez, DOT/PF, Juneau
Commissioner Kelso, DEC, Juneau
Mr. Rod Swope, Office of the Governor, Juneau

Title: ANWR Non-1002 Alternatives

- [1272] Mr. Mike Abbott, Resource Development Council, Anchorage
- [1304] Ms. Susan Alexander, The Wilderness Society, Anchorage
- [1037] Ms. Joyce Beelman, Department of Environmental Conservation, Fairbanks
- [1] Mr. Jay Bergstrand, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Anchorage
- [203] Mr. Peter Freer, Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Juneau
- [1274] Mr. Thomas Gallagher, University of Alaska, Fairbanks
- [825] Mr. Tim Hostetler, Dillingham
- [1275] Mr. Jim Kowalsky, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks
- [1250] Mr. Stan Leaphart, Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, Fairbanks
- [1258] Mr. Craig Lindh, Division of Governmental Coordination, Juneau
- [946] Mr. Ron McCoy, Alaska Land Use Council, Anchorage
- [1400] Ms. Cynthia Meyer, Division of Governmental Coordination, Juneau
- [1244] Capt. James R. Nutgrass, Department of Public Safety, Anchorage
- [1279] Mr. Gerald Rafson, Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities, Fairbanks
- [1372] Ms. Marianne See, Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage
- [1013] Mr. Rod Swope, Office of the Governor, Juneau
- [1242] Mr. Ike Waits, Department of Community & Regional Affairs, Anchorage
- [1239] Mr. Rob Walkinshaw, Department of Natural Resources, Anchorage
- [940] Mr. Vernon R. Wiggins, Alaska Land Use Council, Anchorage
- [1240] Mr. Dan Wilkerson, Department of Environmental Conservation, Anchorage