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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
DEIS CHUKCHI SEA SALE 109
APRIL 14, 1987
7:00 P.M.
POINT LAY, ALASKA

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PROCEEDINGS

1
2 MR. POWERS: Well, I'm Alan
3 Powers, and I'm the Regional Director for the Minerals Management
4 Service in Anchorage. Other members of the panel -- on my immediate
5 left is Dick Miller. Dick Miller also works for the Minerals
6 Management Service, and he works in Washington, D.C., and is here
7 to monitor this hearing. On my immediate left is Rodney Smith, and
8 Rod Smith also works in Anchorage where I do, and his office is in
9 charge of approving and monitoring drilling. He's in charge of
10 making sure that drilling -- and if the oil production activities --
11 they meet the standards and requirements that we establish for
12 drilling in the ocean. On my right is John Schindler, and John
13 Schindler is -- works in the Leasing and Environment office, and
14 he's in charge of the unit that prepares environmental impact state-
15 ments. Environmental impact statements -- I see one right there.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're the
17 one that wrote this?

18 MR. POWERS: He had some help.

19 MR. SCHINDLER: I have a few
20 friends.

21 MR. POWERS: He had some friends,
22 but he is in charge of doing that. But, we would -- we wouldn't
23 make anybody write one of those all by themselves. That would be
24 too much punishment.

25 This is the second time that the Minerals Management Service

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1 personnel have been here in Point Lay regarding O.C.S. Sale 109,
2 which is in the Chukchi Sea. The last time was almost two years
3 ago -- almost two years ago to the day. It was April 19th, 1985,
4 and John was here, and I'm not sure

5 MR. SCHINDLER: Bob Raft (ph.),
6 and Debbie Johnson.

7 MR. POWERS: Yeah. Two other
8 people were here, and it was to seek information about what we
9 should write about in the E.I.S., and so now we have prepared a
10 draft environmental impact statement. We're holding hearings in
11 five places. This is the

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Come on
13 in.

14 MR. POWERS: third hearing.
15 We've held hearings in Barrow, and -- excuse me -- Point Hope, and
16 we'll hold a hearing in Wainwright tomorrow, and then one in
17 Anchorage next week. And after we get comments on the draft en-
18 vironmental impact statement, then we will prepare a final environ-
19 mental impact statement. That final environmental impact statement
20 will be used by the Secretary of Interior when he makes decisions
21 regarding O.C.S. Lease Sale 109.

22 The sale, if it's held, is scheduled for 1988. The area
23 that we're talking about leasing is shown on the map on your right
24 that's on the wall, and let me stand up and just point it out to
25 you. We're talking about this whole area through here, and Point

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1 Lay is here, Point Hope is here, and Wainwright is up here. In-
2 cluded in the proposal are what we call alternatives, and there are
3 three principal alternatives that we're studying at the same time.
4 And one alternative is to lease all of the area except this that is
5 colored in purple. In other words, we would delete this from the
6 Lease Sale. Another would be to delete this area from the Lease
7 Sale. And a third alternative that we're considering is deleting
8 all of this from the purple line to the shore. All of this would
9 be deleted.

10 Now, there's never been any oil and gas leasing in the
11 Chukchi Sea, and there hasn't been any drilling in the Chukchi Sea.
12 So, nobody knows for sure if there's even oil and gas out there.
13 Our estimates are pretty rough, since there hasn't been any drill-
14 ing, but we think the chances of finding commercial quantities of
15 oil are only about one out of five, about 20 percent. If oil is
16 present, we think that it could be as little as a billion barrels,
17 which is actually a pretty good size oil field, and as much as
18 five-and-a-half or six billion barrels that could be produced. By
19 comparison, Prudhoe Bay will probably produce about 10 billion
20 barrels. We don't envision anything as large as Prudhoe Bay by a
21 long shot.

22 If drilling occurs, and discoveries are made, we think that
23 it will be probably about ten years before production could actually
24 start, and if production -- and if there is production, production
25 could last for maybe 30 years.

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1 One of the major concerns that has been expressed about off-
2 shore oil and gas activity in Chukchi and Arctic waters has been
3 possible effects on whaling, and other subsistence activities. And,
4 that's an important concern for us, too. We can exercise, and do
5 exercise a lot of control over drilling, and we'll expect oil
6 companies to be careful about the effects that they might have on
7 subsistence activities, including whaling. We would expect that the
8 oil companies and the villagers and the whalers would work together
9 when they -- if they had problems. That seems to work best when the
10 people who are interested in the ocean actually work together.

11 If there are onshore construction activities, such as
12 support bases, that will be controlled by the State and the North
13 Slope Borough. We don't have jurisdiction over that.

14 Now, what we -- what we would like to do today is to get
15 comments on the draft environmental impact statement so that we can
16 proceed and prepare a final environmental impact statement. If you
17 want to testify, we would need your name on the record, and would
18 like for you to sign up with Laura Yoesting, the lady on my right,
19 and -- and then you can sit here, and everything will be recorded
20 so that we will have a complete record.

21 Now, I guess if you don't want to testify, and want to --
22 if the village, for example, would like to present written testimony
23 at a later date, we can accept written testimony up until May 5th.
24 Now, if nobody wants to testify tonight, but would just sort of like
25 to ask some questions about drilling, and what we're planning, what

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1 I'd like to do is to wait until after we close the record, and then
2 we can sort of chew the fat with you about it. But, the purpose of
3 the hearing itself is to get your views on the draft E.I.S., not
4 so much to answer questions and discuss the proposal, but we can do
5 that.

6 So, I guess if anybody wants to testify, please come forward
7 now.

8 MR. ATTUNGOWRUK: It is open for
9 questions?

10 MR. POWERS: Well, I would like
11 to -- I would like to have testimony, and then if we don't have any
12 testimony, then we'll close the record, then we can talk about --
13 we can answer questions for you.

14 MR. TUKROOK: I need something
15 here. Can we have written testimony?

16 MR. POWERS: You can make -- yes.

17 MR. TUKROOK: What's the deadline
18 for written testimony?

19 MR. POWERS: The written testimony
20 is -- the deadline is May 5th, and the address where you can mail
21 that is on the inside cover of the E.I.S..

22 MR. ATTUNGOWRUK: So, we can't
23 ask questions before

24 MR. POWERS: Well, what I'll do,
25 since, apparently nobody is interested in testifying right now

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1 MR. TUKROOK: Well, we don't know
2 what to testify.

3 MR. POWERS: Okay. Fine. That's
4 fair enough. What we'll do, then, is we'll have a recess for the
5 record, and we'll go off the record. And we'll close the hearing
6 for a little while, and -- we'll do that right now. We're off the
7 record.

8 (Off record)

9 MR. POWERS: We'll go back on the
10 record now.

11 MS. MARTIN: Okay. My name is
12 Annie Martin. I live here at Point Lay, and I'd like to testify
13 against offshore leasing or drilling within our waters, because we,
14 as natives of Alaska, and living off the land -- I think we are the
15 only culturally rich people in America today that are still holding
16 on to our traditions, our subsistence way of life, and any offshore
17 drilling would offset the balance with marine mammals, and also with
18 the mammals on land. So, I would oppose any offshore drilling or
19 leasing at this time.

20 MR. POWERS: Thank you.

21 MR. SCHINDLER: That's what we're
22 looking for.

23 MR. POWERS: That's what we're
24 looking for. That's right.

25 MR. SUSOOK: (Indiscernible).

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1 MR. SCHINDLER: Would you like to
2 state your name, sir?

3 MR. SUSOOK: Jack Susook. Along
4 with Annie's comments.

5 MR. POWERS: Does anybody else
6 want to testify?

7 MS. LAMPE: My name is
8 Nance Lampe. I think it's safe to say that Point Lay, we
9 would like -- we would prefer the land drilling than to the offshore
10 drilling for the purpose of protecting our sea mammals and our way
11 of life.

12 MR. ATTUNGOWRUK: I've got a short
13 testimony for this whole

14 MR. POWERS: Okay.

15 MR. ATTUNGOWRUK: My name is
16 Allen Attungowruk, Senior. I was born in Point Lay, and for all
17 that has been done, I would like to see that the -- the testimonies
18 that are -- before it's -- before the -- the -- the body here --
19 this body, whoever you -- please transfer to North Slope Tribal
20 Government for review or comments so that we will have an under-
21 standing on these testimonies from the whole North Slope.

22 MR. POWERS: Fine.

23 MR. AGNASSAGGA: How many testi-
24 monies you need to

25 MR. SCHINDLER: Well, we'd like

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1 something a little bit different, maybe, but

2 MR. POWERS: This isn't that kind
3 of a proceeding. We're not looking for 50, or 75, or 100 one way
4 or the other. That's not really the purpose of this hearing. The
5 purpose of this hearing is to get your views so that we can tell
6 other people what your views are. We're not keeping a count that
7 says it's going to be three to two one way or the other. It's not
8 that

9 MR. TUKROOK: I'd like to put in
10 my two cents.

11 MR. POWERS: You bet.

12 MR. TUKROOK: Okay. My name is
13 Willie Tukrook, and I'd like to see this lease sale postponed or
14 cancelled due to the fact that not enough noise pollution study has
15 been done on the belugas, or -- we have no idea how the noise will
16 effect them. It might change their migratory routes, or -- like in
17 Kotz -- it might be too much activity around if the lease sale goes
18 through, and it might chase the belugas away. Like I've seen the
19 same thing happening in Kotzebue. The belugas hardly go into
20 Kotzebue Sound anymore, where they used to be numerous. It might
21 be due to activity or noise pollution. But, I think some kind of
22 a study should be made, and included in the draft environmental
23 statement before this lease sale takes place. Also, one other
24 comment -- like some of the people say -- I'd like to restate their
25 views. These land resources should be exhausted before we try to do

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1 anything in the ocean. That's it.

2 MS. TRACEY: Yes.

3 MR. POWERS: Okay. Thank you.

4 Well, if -- is that it? Anybody else want to testify on the record?

5 If not

6 MR. AGNASSAGGA: I was going to
7 say about going against that offshore lease sale, because I don't
8 think they have the technology to clean up if there's a bad wind,
9 or -- you know

10 MR. POWERS: Okay. Can we have
11 your name?

12 MR. AGNASSAGGA: Amos Agnassagga.

13 MR. POWERS: Okay. Well, we've
14 got -- we've got testimony. We've had some interesting discussions.
15 You've got a lot more questions than I've got answers, I know. I
16 can tell. And, we'll close the hearing, and the time is 8:20 p.m.

17 (Off record)

18 * * * 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.

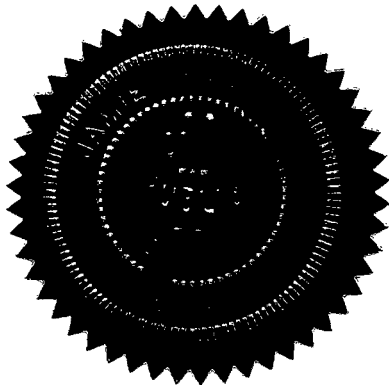
I, Jamie L. Hodge, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska, residing in Anchorage, Alaska, and Stenographer and Electronic Court Reporter for Accu-Type Depositions, do hereby certify:

That the annexed and foregoing pages numbered 1 through 9 contain a full, true and correct transcript of the hearing proceedings in the DEIS Chukchi Sea Gas Sale 109 of April 14, 1987, at 7:00 P.M. in Point Lay, 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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