



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Alaska State Office

222 West Seventh Avenue, #13

Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

<http://www.ak.blm.gov>



AUG 10 2004

1793(931)

Dear Reader:

We are pleased to make the Alpine Satellite Development Plan (ASDP) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) available to you. This Final EIS responds to a proposal by ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc. (CPAI) to develop five satellite oil production pads to its Alpine field. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is conducting this EIS with four cooperating agencies—the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environment Protection Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the State of Alaska. These agencies have contributed to the EIS and will use the results of the Final EIS in making their decisions on CPAI's proposal. We thank these agencies for their contributions to the EIS.

The Final EIS responds to comments made by the public and agencies on the Draft EIS. It also includes a Preferred Alternative that responds to public and agency comments and suggestions and addresses environmental concerns. Major features of the Preferred Alternative include:

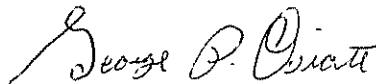
- removing substantial infrastructure—much of the proposed roads and pipelines, and all the powerline poles—from the Fish Creek 3-mile setback established in the BLM's 1998 Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, while allowing a production pad (CD-6) to be located in the setback as requested by CPAI,
- requiring that the road and pipeline bridges across the Nigliq Channel and Ublutuoch River extend from bank to bank and that their approaches provide for natural water flow,
- requiring that the road south from the existing Alpine facility to a production pad (CD-4) be either located around Lake 9323 or otherwise engineered to provide for natural water flow and fish passage,
- increasing the elevation of all pipelines to a 7-foot minimum as measured at the vertical support members, and
- requiring lighting of higher structures to minimize bird strikes.

We appreciate the extensive comments that we received on the Draft EIS and the thoughts and suggestions from everyone involved, but especially from the residents of the development area.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the Environmental Protection Agency will publish a Notice in the *Federal Register* of the availability of this Final EIS. The BLM will wait 30 days after the publication of the EPA's Notice before issuing our Record of Decision. Other agencies will issue their own separate decision documents.

If you have questions about this document, please call Jim Ducker, BLM Alaska State Office, at (907) 271-3130 or Gary Foreman, BLM Northern Field Office at (907) 474-2339.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George P. Bisson".

Henri R. Bisson
State Director

ACTING