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SECTION 4E NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

4E.1 INTRODUCTION

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed CPAI Development Plan or Alternatives B, C, D, or F would not occur. For FFD, oil and gas development would not occur in the reasonably foreseeable future in the ASDP Area. Ongoing activities, and future actions not related to the proposed action alternatives or FFD scenarios, could occur in the Plan Area. Ongoing and reasonably foreseeable future actions are described in the following subsections.

4E.2 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

There would be no impacts on the physical environment from the No-Action Alternative. The existing Alpine Development Project (CD-1 and CD-2) would continue to exist and operate as long as economically recoverable oil can be extracted and processed. Without additional development in the area, such as considered in the other alternatives, the life of the existing Alpine facilities would be shortened and thus may curtail some impacts to the physical environment.

Planned upgrades to the processing facility at CD-1 that are not related to oil production from CD-3, CD-4, CD-5, CD-6, and CD-7 would proceed as currently scheduled. Operational impacts to air, water, and other physical resources would continue at current levels.

The Native village of Nuiqsut would continue to exist, and ongoing life patterns would continue. Expansion and improvement of community infrastructure is likely to continue, possibly to a lesser degree than would occur with additional oil and gas development in the Plan Area. The village hookups and gas-conditioning skid associated with the completed natural gas pipeline from CD-1 to the village would be completed by the NSB in the foreseeable future.

4E.3 BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

There would be no impacts to the biological environment from the No-Action Alternative. Biological impacts resulting from operations of the Alpine Development Project would continue at their current levels, though they may be curtailed earlier than if development such as considered in the other alternatives were to proceed. Impacts to biological resources resulting from residents and subsistence users would continue in the Plan Area. Subsistence resources include caribou, moose, muskoxen, furbearers, waterfowl, fish, and berries.

4E.4 SOCIO-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Current lifestyles of Nuiqsut residents and other users of the Plan Area would continue. Lifestyles include subsistence hunting and fishing by residents and recreation by residents and non-residents. Construction of a road from Nuiqsut to the Dalton Highway could result in greater access to Nuiqsut by non-residents and greater access to areas away from Nuiqsut by residents. Changing access patterns could result in socio-cultural changes in the village of Nuiqsut, which are considered in more detail in the cumulative impacts analysis (Section 4G).

Oil resources in the Plan Area would remain in reserve and would not be developed or made available for the nation's supply of domestic oil. This would contribute to dependence on foreign oil and to negative effects on the balance of trade. Taxes and revenues that would result from the proposed action, alternatives, and FFD would not be realized by local residents, landowners, the North Slope Borough, or the State of Alaska, and no jobs would result.