

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

EFFECTS OF OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA

MARCH 9, 2010

APPEARANCES BY AGENCY STAFF AND CONSULTANTS:

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record)

(Presentation)

JOHN HOPSON, JR.: So why do you have it so detailed in this second paragraph here that states the term take under MMPA means to harass, hunt, capture, kill or collect?

MICHAEL PAYNE: Right.

JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Yet you're telling me that doesn't affect the oil and gas, but in your definitions it does here.

MICHAEL PAYNE: No, it does affect the oil and gas. If we -- well, we don't.....

JOHN HOPSON, JR.: But what I'm saying is if you issue an ITA.....

MICHAEL PAYNE: Correct.

JOHN HOPSON, JR.:they are allowed to hunt, capture, kill, or collect -- or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or collect, legally, because that's what your meaning states.

MICHAEL PAYNE: Okay. There's two types of permits, ITAs. One of them authorizes killing. We don't do that up here. The ones that we do authorize only allows disturbance or harassment. But before we authorize that permit, they have to go through certain steps to make sure that -- there's a second part to that, and if you hang on for one minute, I'll come back to your question. I'll show it in a minute.

1 We can't authorize that permit unless we actually know,
2 or we do everything we can to make sure that they don't -- you
3 know, that -- with all the activity that's going on up here, we
4 don't think the oil and gas activity has affected the
5 population of bowheads, for example. They're increasing pretty
6 good. We don't know for sure if it's affected your ability to
7 get those animals, and that's really of kind of more importance
8 to me right now than looking at this, the assessment of the
9 population. We think bowheads are doing pretty well. Polar
10 bears are not doing well, but not for reasons related to global
11 warming and ice. But I'll come back to that, I promise you.
12 Don't let me forget.

13 (Presentation continued)

14 TERRY TAGAROOK: I have a question.

15 MICHAEL PAYNE: Good. I can shut up.

16 TERRY TAGAROOK: And I'll give you a break. Yeah, on
17 the applications, and who is taking any applications? The
18 state or the federal?

19 MICHAEL PAYNE: The federal.

20 TERRY TAGAROOK: And it's -- none of it is going to the
21 state?

22 MICHAEL PAYNE: Well, not yet. This is just for
23 offshore waters. I don't know what the state process is. They
24 probably have their own process for drilling on state lands,
25 but I don't know what that one is. This is just for offshore

1 marine waters.

2 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Help everybody understand what
3 justified your calling and saying a new EIS is needed when you
4 say this is too much of a different activity. We need
5 understanding of what -- we understand what seismic is versus
6 exploratory drilling.

7 MICHAEL PAYNE: Yeah. Well, if it were just seismic
8 and we were just looking at one or two vessels like they have
9 been for the last couple of years every year, we probably would
10 not have changed any way we were doing it. We would probably
11 look at this one year at a time. However, there is potentially
12 an effect of seismic. It produces a lot of noise, and we have
13 been told, and people are concerned that that noise might drive
14 animals away.

15 When you have that activity, that amount of noise, and
16 you throw on top of it the effect of a drill ship in the same
17 area about the same time, more noise and more activity, we had
18 never analyzed the effect of those two things together. And
19 what we want to do in this document is do that analysis. And
20 we would like to do it for not just one year at a time, which
21 is what we've been issuing permits for, one year at a time, we
22 would like to be able to look out and say over the next three
23 or four years, at least that far, this is how many ships we
24 expect, this is how much activity we expect, this is how much
25 disturbance we expect.

1 After we do that, if we can go back and still make the
2 statement that that much activity will have no effect on
3 reproduction or survival of bowheads, of belugas, of seals,
4 well, anything under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and if
5 it won't have an impact on the availability of those animals to
6 harvest, then we can issue the permits. But we've never looked
7 at this much activity at one time. That's the real difference
8 between what we were doing and what we're doing now. Okay.

9 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: With that being said, you mentioned
10 earlier that the old questions or comments are still being used
11 today. Is that a true statement?

12 MICHAEL PAYNE: Yeah. We're looking at them now.
13 Actually, URS is compiling them from the two or three EISs that
14 we've done in the past.....

15 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Yeah.

16 MICHAEL PAYNE:from the records from Northstar.
17 I don't know where else we're getting -- literature, any place
18 that we can find them.

19 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Where I'm going to be careful in
20 that is the knowledge we have of what oil and gas exploration
21 is at that time versus what it is today for us is a different
22 story. We've learned a lot in the last 15, 20 years of what
23 oil and gas does and what it's going to do with today's
24 technology.

25 So I hope we're not using -- maybe I had negative

1 comments on oil and gas five years ago, ten years ago, versus
2 what it would be today because of the knowledge that we've
3 gained in these consultations the industry has given us over
4 the past five, ten years.

5 MICHAEL PAYNE: Yeah, that's actually a very good
6 point. The technology today is so much different. But I want
7 you to understand that when we compile these comments, these
8 are comments that people have had over the years. We will
9 address those comments. And one of the ways you might address
10 that comment, like you just said, is if there were a negative
11 comment ten years ago, technology and new information might say
12 this is how we're going to address it today.

13 And no matter what we do in this draft document, people
14 are still going to have a chance, even at the end of that
15 process, to come back with another set of comments and say
16 yeah, you're right, or you were wrong, this is what I meant.
17 So the fact that you made comments one way or the other five
18 years ago doesn't mean you can -- you don't have to -- you can
19 change your mind. It also allows for new technology and new
20 information for us to be able to explain why we can still --
21 why we think we can do it better this time.

22 So anyway, that was a good point, but you'll have the
23 opportunity to make another comment on whether we did it right
24 or not this time, too.

25 (Presentation continued)

1 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: With that being said, what do you
2 know of the decibels being emitted from a drill ship versus
3 what a full-blown seismic survey as you show in the middle or
4 the top screen is? What are the difference in decibels that
5 you know of?

6 MICHAEL PAYNE: Well, I'm not the best one. I know we
7 know that. Maybe some of the people with me know it. They're
8 more technical than I am. But I do know that, first of all,
9 they're different kinds of sounds. One's kind of a continuous
10 sound, and one's a very definite impact sound. And so they
11 transmit differently.

12 SHEYNA WISDOM: The source level is quite a bit
13 different. Drilling and source level is actually less than a
14 seismic source level, but it spreads out over farther distances
15 because it's lower frequency and a little bit different type.
16 But when they -- they can add together and make it pretty loud
17 in that overlap zone.

18 MICHAEL PAYNE: So actually, we have other people
19 working with us that are pretty good at that, and I'm
20 definitely not the one that would answer that question
21 normally.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What do you consider shallow?

23 MICHAEL PAYNE: Well, that's a good question.

24 SHEYNA WISDOM: The shallow hazard is more related to
25 the type of.....

1 MICHAEL PAYNE: It's related to the amount of
2 penetration into the subsurface. And when they say shallow
3 hazard, that can be in 100 meters of water, it can be anywhere
4 in the ocean, but it doesn't penetrate very deep. And they're
5 just looking basically at the top of the -- they're looking at
6 the top of the bottom, if you will. They're just looking at
7 the surface of the bottom.

8 The other type is a much louder source, and it
9 penetrates much deeper. So that's a little bit of a misnomer,
10 but it -- they can use it anywhere out here in the Chukchi or
11 the Beaufort for sure.

12 (Presentation continued)

13 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Do you have a concept of where
14 Franklin Point is?

15 MICHAEL PAYNE: No, but you can help me. Just tell me
16 where.

17 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: It's right at the point north of
18 Wainwright.

19 MICHAEL PAYNE: Oh, right there?

20 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Right there. I've done fall whaling
21 with my father and my great-uncles in the nineties, and we've
22 gone up in the Franklin Point area, but have never gone out
23 more than ten miles offshore. Never. I've never.....

24 MICHAEL PAYNE: Did you have luck?

25 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: No. I mean, but what I'm saying is

1 the fall whaling that I know of goes between Wainwright and the
2 Peard Bay area, but never ten miles -- more than ten miles
3 offshore.

4 MICHAEL PAYNE: Okay. One of the.....

5 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: The whales that have been known to
6 land are about 15 miles north of Wainwright, but that was over
7 100 years ago. That's the last time Wainwright got a fall
8 whale. I don't know of any whaling crew in Wainwright that has
9 gone more than ten miles offshore.

10 MICHAEL PAYNE: Well, I'm telling you this now, only
11 because one -- the group that we deal with a lot is the AEWC.

12 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Yeah.

13 MICHAEL PAYNE: And your representatives in the AEWC,
14 your attorneys and those people at HEC in Washington, D.C. that
15 I deal with pretty regularly has indicated to us you might want
16 to start a fall hunt. Now, if you don't, that's fine. I'm not
17 trying to say they're telling us that, but that's something
18 that is a -- that would be a big piece of information if it
19 were true.

20 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: We've been trying to fall whale
21 since the early nineties, is the.....

22 MICHAEL PAYNE: YEAH.

23 JOHN HOPSON, JR.:earliest that I can remember up
24 until last year. Almost every year we've had somebody go out
25 fall whaling.

1 MICHAEL PAYNE: Well, that's kind of what we've always
2 understood, but.....

3 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Yeah. If I had my way, we'd fire
4 that attorney of AEWC. She's such a pain in the butt.

5 MICHAEL PAYNE: Did you get that on record?

6 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Yeah. And my name is John Hopson
7 for the record. She knows that I talk like that. But to tell
8 you that -- I should tell you that anybody that has fall whaled
9 out of Wainwright goes up and down that coast where the whales
10 are, but we've never needed to go more than 10 miles offshore.

11 MICHAEL PAYNE: Well, actually, it's interesting,
12 because I don't have the information here, but some of the new
13 stuff that ADF&G is doing with people up here when they're
14 tagging bowheads, they're actually showing the whales -- there
15 are few in the fall that come down, but you're right they're
16 about 20 miles offshore in this area, but most of them actually
17 come in and go this way.

18 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Yeah.

19 MICHAEL PAYNE: And this is of a concern to us. It may
20 not be during the harvest, but this -- the whales are actually
21 going right over the location where the seismic and the
22 drilling is proposed to happen.

23 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: And even during the past years of
24 seismic survey, the path has never changed much, give or take
25 five miles.

1 MICHAEL PAYNE: Right. And most whales -- if they're
2 migrating, most whales don't care about the noise, they'll just
3 pass right through it.

4 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Yeah.

5 MICHAEL PAYNE: If they're feeding or if they're in an
6 area where they want to stay, then they may be disturbed more.
7 But a migrating whale, it may deflect, it will keep on rocking,
8 you're right. Okay. So I'll keep on your.....

9 (Presentation continued)

10 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: When you talk about threatening
11 danger as our bowhead is listed, how much of AEWC's comments
12 are taken versus an individual's comment? Is it more serious
13 than our comments or not?

14 MICHAEL PAYNE: No. No.

15 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Because AEWC comments on every
16 little thing that comes out there through Jessica, the
17 attorney. But none of their representatives come to our
18 community to see our input. AEWC has a longstanding history of
19 not coming to each community to get our input before they go
20 off and comment on any of the EISs on the air quality permit
21 application on any of them. Yet they are taken seriously, and
22 the people who actually live here don't get to tell them wait a
23 minute here. They don't come and ask for our input.

24 ICAS, you guys are familiar with them, Inupiat
25 Community of the Arctic Slope.....

1 MICHAEL PAYNE: We meet with them tomorrow, actually.

2 JOHN HOPSON, JR.:they're another entity that do
3 not come to the communities, but yet they say they have
4 community support in their comments. None of them have ever
5 come to the community of Wainwright, but yet they speak on our
6 behalf as a tribal organization for the region. Never. Zero.
7 Zilch.

8 MICHAEL PAYNE: Okay.

9 JEFFERY LOMAN: Their comments are taken on their
10 merit, face value, and have no more weight than your comments
11 or anything.....

12 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: But we need you to understand that
13 from our community, they do not come. If they say they do, I'd
14 like to know the record of that date and time, because we've
15 never seen them here. Both AEWC nor ICAS. Not even the North
16 Slope Borough. When the mayor or his staff decides to comment,
17 they never come here and ask for our input. Nothing. Zero.
18 Zilch.

19 MICHAEL PAYNE: Well, I appreciate the comment. We do
20 have that. And like Jeff said, I mean, we get comments from
21 organizations, we get comments from individuals, we get
22 comments from tribal governments. The Wainwright Whaling
23 Captains Association submits comments like what you said.
24 They're all taken pretty much at the same level.

25 Sometimes the ones like from the AEWC have to be

1 responded to because somebody higher than me at the Department
2 of Commerce wants an answer. But in terms of this process,
3 each comment, whether it's from an individual or from a group
4 like the AEWC, is taken very seriously. Especially now. We
5 really want to do this one right, you know.

6 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: When you go and get their comments
7 and their questions and you answer them, please do take into
8 serious consideration that they are not really speaking on our
9 behalf. Because they may say they are a regional organization,
10 but they don't come to us and get our comments. They only stay
11 in Barrow in their little office, and then they comment on our
12 behalf in a negative way, which we don't want to have happen.

13 MICHAEL PAYNE: Well, one thing we can ensure is that
14 as we get comments and as we respond to them, we can make sure
15 that Wainwright, the people in Wainwright, get to look at our
16 responses. Maybe it will be a draft or whatever, but if we're
17 wrong, you can let us know. We have heard that, what you just
18 said, and we recognize it, and we try to take that into
19 account. We do.

20 TERRY TAGAROOK: And besides what they say about their
21 area, and our area is much different than theirs. They have
22 more stronger currents up at Barrow than areas over here. And
23 that makes a difference.

24 (Presentation continued)

25 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Well, what is the deadline date for

1 comments?

2 SHEYNA WISDOM: April 9th.

3 MICHAEL PAYNE: April 9th.

4 SHEYNA WISDOM: And that just means for it to get in
5 the scoping report. We'll be accepting comments after that.

6 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Yeah.

7 MICHAEL PAYNE: Yeah.

8 (Presentation continued)

9 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: And that's at the Egan Center,
10 right?

11 MICHAEL PAYNE: It will be, yes.

12 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Okay.

13 (Presentation continued)

14 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: This EIS, is it a one-year document,
15 or is this going to be one of many multi-year documents?

16 MICHAEL PAYNE: We hope that the EIS will be used to
17 develop permits for multi years. We want to make it broad
18 enough and accurate enough that it will be able to predict the
19 effects of oil and gas activities for at least five or six
20 years to come. Some of the EISs I've worked on have been in
21 effect for a decade when things really don't change.

22 A good example, the Northstar. Nothing really changes
23 at Northstar from year to year. So when you write one of those
24 things, they try to update it every five years, but honestly it
25 could last for ten years if they wanted it to, probably. The

1 only thing that changes is not the action, it's the background
2 around it. Like the listing of polar bear has changed since
3 the last Northstar permit. And a few things like that.

4 Before I shut up, though, does anybody have any
5 questions or comments or anything? Jeff? Anybody?

6 JEFFERY LOMAN: No. I'd just thank you again for
7 coming. Minerals Management Service, and under this
8 administration, like the last administration, is committed to
9 preserving what we know to be a culturally self-defining
10 practice, whaling and other subsistence activities. We want to
11 continue to celebrate what we consider a national treasure, the
12 Inupiat people, along with all other Native American peoples,
13 and protect your resources while we facilitate and regulate the
14 oil and gas activities as they come to us, which I know here in
15 Wainwright, the people understand how important they are, how
16 important they are to Alaska's economy, to the economy of the
17 North Slope Borough, and the future economy of Wainwright. We
18 want to work with you, and we appreciate all your work that
19 you've done recently to support us in the ongoing litigation
20 concerning the exploration. Thank you for coming.

21 MICHAEL PAYNE: So I hope it was understandable. And
22 if you have any -- again, we'll open up now. If you have -- if
23 you want to make public comment tonight, just -- you can
24 probably do it from where you're sitting, or if you want to,
25 come up here and sit a little bit closer to make sure the

1 microphones will pick you up. Otherwise, thank you, and we'll
2 be around here for a while if you just want to talk to us about
3 this.

4 Before we break up, do we have anybody that wants to
5 have an oral comment?

6 EDNA AHMAOGK: I do.

7 MICHAEL PAYNE: You do?

8 EDNA AHMAOGK: Yeah.

9 MICHAEL PAYNE: Okay.

10 EDNA AHMAOGK: Edna Ahmaogk. When I heard you talk
11 about the cap, I've been having a -- you know, putting a cap,
12 you know, or a request for a cap of how much exploration will
13 be done, I think that's a good idea. I don't know if the
14 companies will abide by the cap, because I've spoken with
15 several residents from the Nuiqsut area, and they had an area
16 where they would just -- they said a plane -- you know, no more
17 than this many planes will come in in a week. And then as the
18 years passed, more and more planes came in. And they kept
19 getting closer and closer to their subsistence camps.

20 And I'm just, you know, concerned that even though if
21 this EIS statement is written, will the companies really abide
22 saying that if -- you know, in the statement there is one
23 vessel this year and it's going to remain that one vessel, what
24 if they sneak in another one? I'm just concerned.

25 And there is nowhere else in the world where people are

1 still living as lively as we are, subsistencewise, and we're
2 not exploiting our natural resources as in most countries. You
3 know, we're doing it for our living. And I don't want to lose
4 that.

5 MICHAEL PAYNE: Thank you for your comment. I can --
6 where we are right now, what we will do is I mentioned a cap or
7 something like a cap. As we develop the alternatives -- like I
8 said, we get an application, as we look at the analysis, one of
9 the alternatives probably will be that over the next decade,
10 five to ten years, we won't have any more than this amount of
11 activity at any one time. I don't know if that will be the
12 preferred -- the one that's selected or not. We'll take
13 that -- time will tell.

14 But if we do that, if that becomes the alternative and
15 that becomes the -- what the National Marine Fisheries Service
16 wants to permit, then the oil companies would have to live by
17 it, and it will be part of their permit. In the past it
18 probably hasn't been. It hasn't been that kind of a detail.
19 And so time will tell if we go that route, if things -- it will
20 be part of the process, and I'm confident the oil companies
21 would live with it. I think they would now.

22 EDNA AHMAOGK: And I'm afraid with the comment that you
23 said time will tell, because we can't take back the time once
24 it's done.

25 MICHAEL PAYNE: Right. That's always -- we don't like

1 the activity to be the experiment. That's what we're trying to
2 avoid.

3 EDNA AHMAOGK: Yeah.

4 MICHAEL PAYNE: And we are -- I always feel that way
5 whenever I get involved in any of these projects. You don't
6 want the activity itself to be the experiment, don't know
7 what's going to happen until it's over. That's not a way to
8 go. We're trying to avoid that. We are.

9 Any other comments? If not, thank you for coming and
10 we're -- I guess we're adjourned. We'll be around. I just
11 didn't want people to make a lot of noise during the comments.
12 Thank you. Thank you very much.

13 (Off record)

14 (On record)

15 JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Today's market is such a big cash
16 economy, you need cash for everything. You need cash just to
17 print the papers you're giving me. It costs money. We have to
18 work with the oil companies side by side. And if we don't,
19 another company will come in and do it for us while we're
20 sitting out and losing out on this.

21 The only biggest fear that most people have that I can
22 recall is an oil spill. But the statistics show over 90
23 percent of the oil spills in the world are from tankers. The
24 rest is very minimal from a pipeline. If they do develop oil,
25 it has to be done by a pipeline. We cannot do it through a

1 tanker system.

2 But the stand that we take today is so important in
3 working with the oil companies so that we have a good working
4 relationship, not only with the industry, but with the federal
5 government. And it is not represented. And that's where we
6 think we should be. The idea of losing our subsistence is only
7 based on the fact that if we have an oil spill, it can happen.

8 Oil and gas in the Chukchi will not affect my
9 subsistence hunting because I don't go 70 miles out. I've
10 never gone more than 20 miles out offshore. One of our elder
11 whaling captains made a comment a few years ago in our whaling
12 captains meeting. He said maybe if the oil companies make a
13 lot of noise out there, the whales will come in closer to
14 Wainwright and give us a better chance to hunt the whale in the
15 fall time. That was a thought.

16 But the activity is so far out, the only real chance of
17 hurting my subsistence hunt is by an oil spill. And having an
18 oil spill is a lose-lose situation for everybody. It costs the
19 oil companies money to deal with it. So they're going to do
20 everything in their part to make sure they don't have an oil
21 spill.

22 Prevention, you've seen their prevention, preventative
23 measures on oil and gas. And they're one of the most superior
24 based on what has been done in the last 20 years, you know.
25 But I believe that for what I do today, we need to work with

1 the oil companies or my daughter will not get a chance to go
2 hunt like I have or he has, because I won't be able to provide
3 stuff to have that happen. People talk about how we're going
4 to lose our subsistence if we have oil and gas, but nobody
5 wants to talk about I have an ability to lose my job if we
6 don't have it.

7 A lot of people are working today because of Shell and
8 Conoco in Wainwright. They wouldn't have those jobs if the
9 idea of having oil and gas out there wasn't there. Now they
10 can provide for their family, they can go hunt where before
11 they had no income. This is a positive move for our community,
12 for Alaska, and for the nation. And it's what the nation
13 needs. It's not what I need; it's what the nation needs.
14 We're exporting too much and importing too much when we can do
15 it ourselves.

16 So I think we need to work with the industry and the
17 federal agencies to make this a reality. Otherwise we're going
18 to just sit here waiting for court appeals to happen, which is
19 wrong. A judge should not be able to hold up our development.
20 What if I decide to build a store as my house and somebody sues
21 me, so does that person have the right to stop me from creating
22 an income for my family?

23 That's what these people are doing in putting lawsuits
24 on oil and gas. When you look at the lawsuits versus the
25 impact statement, that's what they're suing on. Everybody's

1 done everything to the best of their ability, but they find
2 little misspells that create a lawsuit, and it puts a hurt on
3 the economy of us. Not just Wainwright, but everybody else who
4 has an effect of oil and gas. People lose their jobs every
5 time a lawsuit gets put in, because they don't know if they'll
6 be able to go to work or not.

7 We need to work together, and that's where Wainwright,
8 I believe, is. We're willing to work with the federal
9 government and the oil companies to make this a reality. And
10 we all need it, everybody knows that. We're going to hear
11 comments about we're afraid to lose our hunting, we're afraid
12 to lose our culture. We will lose it if we don't create jobs.
13 Our population is only growing, it's not getting any smaller,
14 and that's going to create a problem if we don't have jobs.
15 It's going to turn to violence, drugs, and alcohol, which is
16 not right.

17 We need something for people to look forward to, for
18 the high school kids to look forward to, and then moving in
19 their own life. Thank you.

20 MICHAEL PAYNE: Thank you very much.

21 TERRY TAGAROOK: And I would just like to make one more
22 comment before I go. No matter what the oil companies does in
23 the Chukchi Sea, it will have an impact on the environment out
24 in the ocean. No matter what happens. We won't know the
25 outcome now, but something is going to happen, and that's for

1 sure.

2 MICHAEL PAYNE: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for
3 coming.

4 ROBERT SHEARS: I work in the oil indus- -- the
5 offshore oil support industry, and I was in a -- or excuse me.
6 My name is Robert Shears, a resident -- a 14-year resident on
7 Wainwright. And I have a subsistence-oriented family, a Native
8 family. So we're active in both the ocean and the land here.
9 However, I have an interest in and I'm a supporter of offshore
10 support. You guys have done a lot of good groundwork.

11 Frankly, I think you're premature coming here with this
12 when we haven't even stuck steel in the ground out there, but I
13 understand why you are. You must be optimistic that this is
14 going to grow into something, because that's what this EIS is
15 meant to do, is to address the growth of the industry and the
16 offshore drilling, which I think is fine. I think the ground
17 rules are well laid out. I don't see a strong impact based
18 if -- you know, following the procedures for incidental
19 harassment and incidental take. I think we can cohabitate with
20 the oil and gas activity in the Chukchi.

21 However, a third point, and here's the elephant in the
22 room, at what point does the growth of oil and gas activity in
23 the Arctic Ocean go to such a point where it becomes a national
24 security asset, similar to the Aleyska Pipeline? How much
25 growth has to happen before we see national defense assets

1 deployed to the Arctic Ocean to secure and to protect from
2 other national interests?

3 My concern is oil and gas activity in the room (ph) is
4 going to lead to other interests. It's going to bring other
5 interested parties into the Arctic Ocean. Specifically the
6 Navy. Most specifically submarine activity using active sonar.
7 I think active sonar is going to be one of the biggest
8 harassment effects on our marine wildlife. And I think it
9 should be part of the scope of this EIS, addressing how Naval
10 activity and how national defense assets will be deployed to
11 protect oil and gas activity in the Arctic. That's my comment
12 for tonight.

13 MICHAEL PAYNE: Thank you.

14 (Off record)

15 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
2) ss.

3 STATE OF ALASKA)

4 I, Crystal D. Scotti, Notary Public in and for the
5 State of Alaska, residing at Fairbanks, Alaska, and court
6 reporter for Liz D'Amour & Associates, Inc., do hereby certify:

7 That the annexed and foregoing National Oceanic and
8 Atmospheric Administration: Effects of Oil and Gas Activities
9 in the Arctic Ocean, Environmental Impact Statement Scoping
10 Meeting was taken before me on the 9th day of March, 2010, at
11 Wainwright, Alaska;

12 That this hearing, as heretofore annexed, is a true and
13 correct transcription of the testimony of participants, taken
14 by me electronically and thereafter transcribed by me;

15 That the hearing has been retained by me for the
16 purpose of filing the same with URS, 560 East 34th Avenue,
17 Suite 100, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, as required by URS.

18 That I am not a relative or employee or attorney or
19 counsel of any of the parties, nor am I financially interested
20 in this action.

21 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
22 affixed my seal this 13th day of April, 2010.

23 _____
24 Crystal D. Scotti
25 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My commission expires: 09/15/2010

26 S E A L