

In the Matter Of:
NANUSHUK PROJECT

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

October 04, 2017

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Alaska District



Public Meeting
Anchorage, Alaska

NANUSHUK PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn
4555 Union Square Drive
Anchorage, Alaska

NANUSHUK PROJECT
 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT on 10/04/2017

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 MS. HUNTINGTON: Good evening. My name is 2 Joy Huntington. I'm a subcontractor to DOWL, 3 working on this project with them under the 4 leadership of the Army Corps of Engineers. So 5 we're happy to have you all here this evening. 6 This is our fourth in a series of 7 presentations around the state to share our draft 8 EIS key findings with everyone and to get your 9 input. So I know many of you have come to make 10 comments. We have a court reporter, Leslie, here 11 who is going to be taking everything in. So your 12 comments tonight, if you could please say your 13 name, affiliation if you wish. 14 We're going to present some different 15 options as well for providing input, but that's 16 really the key of this meeting is to present some 17 key findings to you and to have you provide input 18 as well. 19 So a few comments. We wanted to also thank 20 Armstrong Energy, LLC for providing the food this 21 evening. So thank you to them. They're also here, 22 and they'll be standing and showing you who they 23 are here in a little bit as well. 24 As the facilitator, my goals tonight are to 25 help keep the meeting as productive and informative</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 that this is the proposed Nanushuk Project, which 2 is located about 6-and-a-half miles northeast of 3 the Village of Nuiqsut, southeast of the east 4 channel of the Colville River. It is being 5 proposed -- the Applicant is Armstrong Energy, LLC. 6 You'll hear a lot more about the project very soon. 7 We wanted to just share with you a few 8 comments just in case -- or a few ways to comment 9 just in case some of you are not able to stay until 10 the end of the meeting. The presentations have 11 been running about an hour, 45 minutes to an hour, 12 and then we open it up for input and questions at 13 that time. 14 If for some reason you're worried that you 15 won't be able to stay until the end, we're supposed 16 to run until 8:00 p.m., here's a few more options 17 for you. We'll be presenting this at the end of 18 the presentation as well. We have a few people, 19 Zack and Laila, right outside the room, and they 20 have comment sheets. They can provide you with the 21 website, the e-mail address. So here's other 22 options. Again, you have until November 14th to 23 get your comments in. 24 We would love it if you would stay until 25 the very end. We're not trying to kick you out,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 as possible. So I'll be guiding us through the 2 question-and-answer period and handing it over to 3 our folks that are presenting here in just a few 4 minutes. 5 If you would please hold your questions 6 until the end, if possible, that would just make 7 our presentation run a little bit smoother, 8 questions and comments. However, if you have 9 questions related to what's being presented, if you 10 need some clarification on one of the maps or one 11 of the alternatives, definitely raise your hand, 12 and we'll be happy to answer questions along the 13 way just to make sure we're all staying on the same 14 page. 15 So as you may have seen out in the front, 16 or heard, the deadline for comments is 17 November 14th. So this is not your only 18 opportunity to provide input or feedback for the 19 project specifically for the EIS. So if you have 20 comments on the draft, please provide those by 21 November 14th. 22 Again, just to kind of acclimate everyone, 23 I'm sure some of you work on different projects or 24 have heard about different projects, so we wanted 25 to make sure everyone in the room was just reminded</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 but if for some reason you're not here at that 2 time, please just feel free to utilize these. You 3 can also do both if you want. You don't have to 4 pick one. You could probably do all of these if 5 you really wanted to. 6 So I'm going to go over the agenda really 7 quickly. You're going to hear some introductions. 8 The folks that are representing either the EIS team 9 or the Applicant will stand here in a few moments, 10 and you'll be able to see who everybody is. Then, 11 Ellen Lyons, our project manager from the Corps, is 12 going to give a quick NEPA and EIS overview, just 13 talk about some of the goals and the process that 14 we're in the middle of right now. 15 Then we'll have a project overview. So 16 you'll hear some of the different aspects of the 17 project that's being proposed as well as, of 18 courses, the purpose and need; but the focus 19 tonight will be on the five alternatives that have 20 been presented in this draft EIS. 21 You'll learn the differences between them, 22 specifically in the areas presented on the right 23 here. These five areas have really been the focus 24 of a lot of our community meetings. Throughout the 25 scoping process, it became clear that these issues</p>

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1 were really kind of the key issues that were most
2 important to the community of Nuiqsut, the region,
3 and other agencies as well. So we're going to
4 focus and provide some key findings from those
5 areas, and then the differences between the
6 alternatives for you.
7 Last, we will talk about next steps. So
8 you'll hear where we're at right now, and of course
9 when the comment period will end and when you can
10 expect the next steps to happen as well. Again,
11 thank you for being here.
12 I'm going to hand it over to Ellen Lyons.
13 MS. LYONS: Thanks, Joy. So, again, my
14 name is Ellen Lyons. I am the Army Corps of
15 Engineers project manager for the Nanushuk Project.
16 The Corps of Engineers is the lead federal
17 agency for the Nanushuk EIS. As such, it's
18 important to point out that we are neither a
19 proponent nor an opponent for the proposed project.
20 We take all of the information, utilize it to make
21 a decision at the end of the process.
22 We also have been working with four
23 different cooperating agencies, the Native Village
24 of Nuiqsut, the EPA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
25 Service, and the State of Alaska Department of

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1 Natural Resources. DOWL is a third-party
2 contractor. I'd like to have DOWL folks stand up.
3 So these are the guys that are working to write the
4 EIS under the direction of the Corps of Engineers.
5 I'd also like to thank Armstrong for being
6 in the room tonight. So if I could have folks from
7 Armstrong stand up. Armstrong Energy is the
8 Applicant for the proposed project.
9 So quickly I'm just going to give an
10 overview of the EIS process. So the National
11 Environmental Policy Act requires federal agencies
12 to evaluate the environmental effects of a major
13 federal action. So it is the issuing or the need
14 to issue or make a permit decision under the Clean
15 Water Act that makes this a major federal action
16 and then requires NEPA to be conducted. That's why
17 we're writing an EIS.
18 So the first thing that we do is we start
19 with a purpose and need. The Applicant has
20 provided us with a purpose and need; from that, we
21 have determined a range of reasonable alternatives
22 to the proposed project. This also includes a
23 no-action alternative.
24 Once we have the reasonable range of
25 alternatives, we do an evaluation of direct,

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1 indirect, and cumulative effects, and we compare
2 the different alternatives to one another and to
3 the proposed action.
4 Another really important part of the
5 EIS process is the public review. That's why we're
6 here tonight. So we are presenting to you a
7 summary of some of the findings in the draft
8 environmental impact statement, and we are seeking
9 your feedback on these findings. We're seeking
10 feedback on the purpose and need, the alternatives,
11 the effects analysis, and any mitigation measures
12 or avoidance and minimization measures that you
13 feel would be appropriate for this project.
14 So this kind of shows you where we are in
15 the EIS process. March of 2016 we started the
16 scoping process for this project. We've taken a
17 lot of the information we received during the
18 scoping process and also from the cooperating
19 agencies, and we've developed our alternatives and
20 we've drafted the environmental impact statement.
21 So right now we're hosting the public meetings and
22 getting comments on the draft EIS.
23 Again, as Joy mentioned earlier, you do
24 have until November 14th to submit any comments you
25 may have on the project.

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1 So here we are, again, for the Nanushuk
2 Project. The Nanushuk Project is located about
3 6-and-a-half miles to the northeast of the Native
4 Village of Nuiqsut. Alpine is to the west.
5 Kuparak is to the east. Nuna is generally to the
6 north, and Mustang generally to the south.
7 So, quickly, the project overview. The
8 Applicant has submitted an application, and they
9 propose to produce, process, and transport
10 sales-quality oil to the TAPS. This proposed
11 project would require the placement of fill into
12 wetlands for the construction of drill pads,
13 operation pads, processing facilities, roads, and
14 pipelines.
15 The proposed project also includes
16 screeding at the Oliktok Dock, potentially the
17 widening of several roads from Oliktok to the
18 tie-in line, and also the construction of ice
19 roads.
20 Again, the first thing we start with is the
21 purpose and need. So the purpose and need for this
22 project is to safely produce commercial quantities
23 of liquid hydrocarbons in its oil and gas leasehold
24 by operating from a site east of the Colville River
25 Delta, to process hydrocarbons on or near the drill

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1 sites, and to transport sales-quality oil through a
 2 new export pipeline to the Kuparuk sales oil
 3 pipeline and then to TAPS.
 4 We took this purpose and need and we
 5 developed an initial range of possible
 6 alternatives. So then we took the potential range
 7 of alternatives, we started very broadly, and we
 8 narrowed them down using an alternative screening
 9 criteria.
 10 It's really important that alternatives
 11 meet the purpose and need and that they're
 12 reasonable and feasible. So, again, we started
 13 very broadly looking at all the different
 14 components of the project. So we looked at
 15 alternatives for different drill site locations,
 16 fewer drill sites, drill sites further east,
 17 various access road configurations, also infield
 18 road configurations, pipelines, alternatives, et
 19 cetera.
 20 After documenting all of these, we again
 21 put it through a screening criteria, fine-tuned it
 22 down until we came up with our reasonable range of
 23 alternatives that we carried through the process.
 24 So this sort of just summarizes what I just
 25 said. This is some of the screening criteria.

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1 Again, an alternative must meet the purpose and
 2 need for the proposed project. It must be feasible
 3 and practicable. It must address substantive
 4 issues that we gathered during the scoping process.
 5 Some of them include reducing the developmental
 6 footprint, potential health effects, development in
 7 floodplains, et cetera. We also looked at
 8 maximizing existing infrastructure and also
 9 maximizing the socioeconomic benefits to the
 10 public.
 11 In the end we came up with the one
 12 no-action alternative, which is required by NEPA,
 13 and four action alternatives. So this drawing
 14 shows some of the general project components. This
 15 is the Applicant's proposed, which is Alternative
 16 2, but it does show some of the components that are
 17 similar or the same for all alternatives.
 18 Each alternative has three drill sites, a
 19 central processing facility, an operations center,
 20 infield roads, an access road, an export pipeline
 21 that connects into North Slope pipelines at
 22 Kuparuk, CPF-2, a seawater import pipeline, and
 23 lake water withdrawals.
 24 So just so you know, the drill sites are
 25 the same for all alternatives. They don't change,

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1 but the infield roads can change for the
 2 alternatives, and also the access road.
 3 So, again, the first alternative is the
 4 no-action, which is required by NEPA, and is
 5 basically the alternative if the Corps does not
 6 issue a permit and the project is not constructed.
 7 Alternative 2 is the Applicant's proposed
 8 action. This is what the Applicant requested a
 9 permit for under the Corps process. So, again,
 10 this alternative has three drill sites. In the
 11 Applicant's proposed alternative, the central
 12 processing facility is on the same pad as Drill
 13 Site 1. The access road starts here. This
 14 alternative is approximately 14.2 miles from
 15 Nuiqsut.
 16 So Alternative 3, the southern access, was
 17 identified in response to comments requesting that
 18 we use existing infrastructure corridors. So this
 19 alternative uses the existing Mustang
 20 infrastructure and the Alpine pipeline corridor and
 21 then moves north. The central processing facility
 22 is located here as opposed to the same pad as Drill
 23 Site 1. Also, what we did is we put the
 24 Applicant's proposed project in yellow and this
 25 alternative is shown in red on this figure. In

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1 this alternative the central processing facility is
 2 approximately 10.8 miles from the Native Village of
 3 Nuiqsut.
 4 So, Alternative 4, the northern access, was
 5 also developed to make as much use of existing
 6 infrastructure as possible. This alternative
 7 purchases the field from the north and utilizes
 8 either the constructed or the permitted Nuna
 9 infrastructures. Another unique aspect of this
 10 alternative is that the pipeline here does not have
 11 road access.
 12 It's approximately 7.3 miles. So this can
 13 increase the need for helicopter operations, for
 14 pipeline inspections, maintenance and repairs, and
 15 it makes responses to any pipeline spill more
 16 difficult. Again, the drill sites are the same for
 17 all alternatives, and the infield roads have the
 18 same configuration as the proposed project.
 19 Alternative 5 is the reconfigured infield
 20 road alternative. On this figure it's shown in
 21 purple. The Applicant's proposed project is shown
 22 in yellow. This alternative was developed to use
 23 existing infrastructure corridors and also to
 24 reduced development in floodplains and to reduce
 25 the amount of development parallel to the Colville

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 River.</p> <p>2 So in this alternative the central</p> <p>3 processing facility is a little bit closer to</p> <p>4 Nuiqsut than the proposed project. It's about</p> <p>5 11.7 miles versus 14.2 miles. So this alternative</p> <p>6 minimizes development in the floodplain and also</p> <p>7 parallel to the river. It also reduces what can be</p> <p>8 seen as somewhat of a corralling effect to caribou</p> <p>9 movement.</p> <p>10 So this table is a comparison of the</p> <p>11 alternatives in just a very general sense. It has</p> <p>12 mainly miles of road, the total gravel footprint,</p> <p>13 and central processing facility distance from</p> <p>14 Nuiqsut. In our handouts we have a more detailed</p> <p>15 table that has additional information and, of</p> <p>16 course, the EIS contains a great deal more</p> <p>17 information than what we're presenting to you here</p> <p>18 tonight.</p> <p>19 This is a list of all the things that we</p> <p>20 evaluated in the EIS, all the physical, all the</p> <p>21 biological, and all the social resources. However,</p> <p>22 tonight we are focusing on these five key issues in</p> <p>23 our presentation to you. These are identified</p> <p>24 during scoping and with the agency meetings that we</p> <p>25 had. We felt these were the most important to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 operations, and also concerns about the potential</p> <p>2 for changes to air quality in the surrounding areas</p> <p>3 including Nuiqsut.</p> <p>4 As described in the draft EIS, the project</p> <p>5 would result in emissions of criteria air</p> <p>6 pollutants. By that "criteria air pollutant" term,</p> <p>7 we mean those pollutants that have air quality</p> <p>8 standards, national and state standards. So</p> <p>9 examples include nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide,</p> <p>10 particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and ozone.</p> <p>11 The project would also emit hazardous air</p> <p>12 pollutants. Those are pollutants above which a</p> <p>13 certain threshold concentration are known to cause</p> <p>14 cancer or serious health effects. So examples are</p> <p>15 benzene and xylenes. The project would also have</p> <p>16 greenhouse gas emissions. It would also generate</p> <p>17 fugitive dust from the project activities on gravel</p> <p>18 roads and pads.</p> <p>19 So what the EIS analysis found was that</p> <p>20 although the project would produce these emissions,</p> <p>21 the air quality would meet all applicable national</p> <p>22 and Alaska ambient air quality standards. The EIS</p> <p>23 also found that the hazardous air pollutant</p> <p>24 concentrations would be well below all referenced</p> <p>25 concentrations known to cause adverse health</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 present to you this evening.</p> <p>2 So at this time I'm going to invite Kristen</p> <p>3 from DOWL to come forward and present on air</p> <p>4 quality.</p> <p>5 MS. HANSEN: Thank you. So as Ellen</p> <p>6 mentioned, I'm Kristen Hansen. I'm the project</p> <p>7 manager on the DOWL EIS team. I'll be presenting</p> <p>8 the summary slides for air quality, hydrology,</p> <p>9 water quality, and subsistence. Then I'm going to</p> <p>10 hand it over to Maryellen, who will cover the</p> <p>11 findings for human health and safety and oil spill</p> <p>12 risk.</p> <p>13 On these next slides we're going to give</p> <p>14 you just kind of a basic overview summary of each</p> <p>15 of these key issues identified during scoping, the</p> <p>16 key findings in the EIS, and a general comparison</p> <p>17 of the alternatives. This will be a really broad</p> <p>18 overview. There's obviously a lot more detail in</p> <p>19 the EIS. So we'll try and get through this</p> <p>20 relatively quickly for purposes of this</p> <p>21 presentation.</p> <p>22 So air quality was a key issue identified</p> <p>23 during public scoping. In particular, there were</p> <p>24 concerns raised about potential air emissions from</p> <p>25 the project during construction, drilling, and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 effects.</p> <p>2 For Nuiqsut, the EIS analysis found that</p> <p>3 air quality impacts would be probable, minor, and</p> <p>4 medium term. So what does that mean? We defined</p> <p>5 that in the EIS. Probable means that the emissions</p> <p>6 are likely to affect air quality. Minor means that</p> <p>7 no criteria pollutant concentration would exceed</p> <p>8 50 percent of the federal and Alaska standards.</p> <p>9 Medium term means that the impact would last the</p> <p>10 life of the project, which is 30 years, but not</p> <p>11 beyond that.</p> <p>12 So as far as the comparison of alternatives</p> <p>13 for air quality, the EIS finds that there really</p> <p>14 are not a lot of differences between the</p> <p>15 alternatives that Ellen just presented.</p> <p>16 Specifically, all alternatives would meet the</p> <p>17 national and state air quality standards.</p> <p>18 Air quality impacts in Nuiqsut would be</p> <p>19 minor for all the alternatives, as I just</p> <p>20 described, and the concentrations would not exceed</p> <p>21 50 percent of the air quality standards. So the</p> <p>22 only real difference between the alternatives is</p> <p>23 that each alternative has a different CPF location,</p> <p>24 as Ellen just described.</p> <p>25 So for Alternative 3, the southern access</p>

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1 alternative, that would place the CPF about
 2 11 miles from Nuiqsut, whereas Alternative 4, the
 3 northern access alternative, would place it about
 4 15 miles from Nuiqsut. So it's important to
 5 emphasize, however, that even with these different
 6 locations of the CPF, all alternatives would meet
 7 the national and state air quality standards in the
 8 project area and in Nuiqsut.

9 So the next topic I'm going to cover is
 10 hydrology and water quality. This was also
 11 identified in scoping as a key issue, in particular
 12 concerns raised about facilities being developed
 13 within the Colville River floodplain.

14 So the draft EIS finds that gravel pads,
 15 gravel roads, ice roads, ice pads, and river
 16 crossings would result in potential changes to
 17 natural drainage patterns, alterations in water
 18 flow, as well as some changes to lake water
 19 quantities from water withdrawals used for ice
 20 infrastructure and dust suppression.

21 More specifically, the key findings from
 22 the impact analysis found that roads and pads may
 23 result in increased death and duration of water
 24 impoundment behind those facilities during spring
 25 break-up and other flood events, with possible

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1 changes in flow direction resulting from flow
 2 obstruction during that time. As a result, ice
 3 roads and pads and gravel infrastructure may change
 4 stream channel stability or alignment, including
 5 possible erosion of tundra or stream banks and
 6 resulting in deposition of sediment on the tundra
 7 or in nearby rivers. This, of course, could lead
 8 to a potential for increased turbidity from
 9 fugitive dust and erosion.

10 The EIS also finds that thermokarsting
 11 could occur where water is impounded behind the
 12 facilities during spring runoff and other flood
 13 events. Thermokarst is where there is some
 14 localized thawing of ice-rich permafrost.

15 Finally, the EIS finds that water
 16 withdrawals from lakes for water supply needs may
 17 result in changes to available lake water
 18 quantities.

19 So as far as the comparison of
 20 alternatives, unlike for air quality, there are
 21 some differences between the alternatives in terms
 22 of impacts to hydrology and water quality.

23 So Alternative 4, that's the northern
 24 access alternative, was found to have the most
 25 direct effects to rivers and floodplains of all of

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1 the alternatives. That's because it would have the
 2 highest number of streams requiring culverts and
 3 the most VSMS or vertical support members that
 4 support the above-ground pipelines and bridge piles
 5 placed below ordinary high water and within the
 6 floodplain.

7 Alternative 2, that's the Applicant's
 8 proposed action, would have the most miles of new
 9 gravel roads, the second highest numbers of VSMS
 10 and bridge piles, and the highest number of
 11 cross-stream culverts.

12 The Alternative 3, that's again the
 13 southern access alternative, would have more total
 14 bridges at river crossings and more gravel road
 15 located in the floodplains than any of the other
 16 alternatives.

17 Last, Alternative 5, that's the
 18 reconfigured infield road, would have the fewest
 19 direct effects to water bodies and floodplains than
 20 all of the other alternatives because it would have
 21 the shortest length of road in the floodplain, the
 22 second lowest number of stream crossings requiring
 23 culverts, and the fewest VSMS and bridge piles
 24 below ordinary high water. Alternative 5 would
 25 also have the lowest volume of water withdrawal

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1 needed over the life of the project.

2 Moving on to subsistence. So our
 3 subsistence subject matter experts used three
 4 methods. They drew upon three sources of
 5 information for their analysis. They considered
 6 subsistence mapping and harvest surveys from nearly
 7 40 years of data going back to 1979, including more
 8 recent studies conducted by the Applicant for this
 9 project. They also considered fish and wildlife
 10 biologist's impact assessments for this EIS, and
 11 they considered traditional knowledge from Nuiqsut
 12 community members.

13 So the key findings of the EIS essentially
 14 found the greatest potential effect would be on
 15 caribou subsistence hunting. That's because of
 16 caribous' high importance and high use in the area.
 17 High importance meaning caribou contributes highly
 18 to the subsistence diet for Nuiqsut, high sharing
 19 and high participation amongst community members.
 20 High use meaning they looked at about a 2-mile
 21 buffer area around all of the alternatives and had
 22 documentation that 88 percent of active harvesters
 23 reported using that area for caribou subsistence
 24 hunting. Also the east channel accounts for 7 to
 25 20 percent of caribou harvest.

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1 Fish and birds were considered of moderate
2 importance in the area, moderate use in the area.
3 They found that other areas outside of the project
4 had more use for these resources. Birds, they're
5 talking about primarily eiders, about 29 percent of
6 harvesters use the project area. There was
7 documented eider use in spring by whaling captains.
8 Then, for fish they found that 3 to 4
9 percent of harvesters reported using the area for
10 fishing. This is for arctic cisco, burbot, arctic
11 char, and arctic grayling.
12 Furbearers and small land mammals, they
13 found that about 50 percent of harvesters use the
14 area, but most of that is concentrated farther
15 south in the project area. The community's primary
16 areas are located further upriver. And moose, kind
17 of the same thing. The documentation shows that
18 moose hunting occurs further south, and there are
19 few moose in the area.
20 Then last, for marine mammals, there's some
21 historic use in the east channel, some infrequent
22 harvesting of seals, but most of the hunting occurs
23 in the Beaufort so, therefore, effects were
24 determined unlikely for marine mammals.
25 So as far as the comparison of alternatives

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1 for subsistence, again, we found that there are
2 similar effects for all of the alternatives -- all
3 of the action alternatives, but there are a few
4 differences to point out.
5 Alternative 4, the northern access
6 alternative, with the alternative paralleling the
7 east channel and the potential corralling effect
8 that Ellen mentioned, we found that this
9 alternative has the greatest effect on the caribou,
10 the greatest potential for obstructing or diverting
11 caribou, and also a slightly higher number of eider
12 harvesters are affected with this alternative.
13 Also, the helicopter impacts are heightened
14 under Alternative 4 due to the roadless portion of
15 the pipeline.
16 For Alternative 2, the Applicant's proposed
17 alternative, we found that the CPF being closest to
18 the Colville and the Miluveach Rivers, this results
19 in the greatest potential for avoidance near those
20 locations and a higher likelihood for obstructing
21 or diverting caribou.
22 Alternative 3, the southern access, found
23 that the southern infrastructure was more likely to
24 affect wolf and wolverine harvesters, and there
25 would be fewer impacts to eider harvesters between

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1 Lake MC7903 and the Miluveach River.
2 Lastly, Alternative 5, the reconfigured
3 infield roads, was found to have the lease impacts
4 to subsistence. That's because it moves the road
5 infrastructure out of the Colville River
6 floodplain, it reduces the roads paralleling the
7 east channel, moves most of the infrastructure
8 further inland, and is most conducive to caribou
9 movement.
10 So that's a quick summary of what we found
11 for subsistence, and that's my last slide. I'm
12 going to hand it over to Maryellen now.
13 MS. TUTTELL: Thank you, Kristen. I'm
14 Maryellen Tuttell with DOWL, and I'm going to
15 review a summary of the findings for the human
16 health and safety analysis that was conducted as
17 part of the environmental impact statement.
18 So in looking at human health and
19 safety, we used two different perspectives to look
20 at it. One was based on a framework that was
21 developed by the Alaska Department of Health &
22 Social Services called health effects categories.
23 The second was based on a study done by the
24 North Slope Borough where they looked at potential
25 impacts on human and social issues on the North

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1 Slope from resource development.
2 The two perspectives look at mostly the
3 same issues; they just have some very slight
4 variations. So there's a lot more detailed
5 information in the EIS, as we've all mentioned, but
6 we're just going to hit very quickly on a summary
7 of some of the key findings.
8 So when we looked at human health and
9 safety, there are a number of both positive impacts
10 that could occur from the development, and there's
11 also the potential for some adverse effects.
12 So some of the benefits from -- on health
13 and human safety from the project would be
14 typically if family incomes increase, health
15 outcomes for families also increase. So there's
16 better health incomes -- or better health outcomes
17 are generally correlated with higher incomes. So
18 this project has the potential to increase family
19 incomes, particularly in Nuiqsut and in other
20 areas, and so there are indirect effects on health
21 from that increased income.
22 In addition, the development could result
23 in additional revenues to the State, to the
24 Borough, and to Native corporations. Those
25 additional revenues can be used to support health

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1 and social infrastructure in the communities and to
 2 support programs in the communities. So, again,
 3 they're indirectly correlated with human health.
 4 So improvements in those programs, in health and
 5 social facilities, would have a positive effect,
 6 but it's an indirect effect.

7 In terms of some of the adverse effects,
 8 one of the issues that we looked at was safety. On
 9 the North Slope there is a high incidence of
 10 transportation and safety incidents. When people
 11 are in boats or on ATVs or other ways of getting
 12 around, there are safety incidents that occur. So
 13 if you look at people who are traveling from the
 14 community of Nuiqsut and they're going out to
 15 harvest subsistence resources, and if they have to
 16 take a longer path to get to their normal
 17 subsistence gathering area to avoid infrastructure,
 18 or if they have to go through an area that they're
 19 not as familiar with, that increases the potential
 20 risk of having some type of safety incident during
 21 that transportation.

22 In addition, as Kristen was mentioning, if
 23 there are adverse effects on subsistence harvests,
 24 that could also have an indirect effect on human
 25 health due to changes in the diet. So if people

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1 had less caribou available to them and either
 2 therefore had less food available, or if they
 3 replaced caribou with some less nutritious food,
 4 that could have an adverse effect on human health.
 5 Again, not a direct effect, but it is an indirect
 6 effect.

7 Increased stress is really one of the major
 8 issues that came up over and over again as we
 9 looked through both of the perspectives on human
 10 health. The community in Nuiqsut has expressed a
 11 lot of concerns about the potential for effects
 12 from air pollution or air emissions; the potential
 13 for contamination of subsistence resources; the
 14 potential for spills of hazardous materials
 15 affecting water quality or soils or air quality.

16 So even though we did not find any direct
 17 effects, adverse effects from the proposed project,
 18 the fact that people have those concerns is even by
 19 itself an adverse effect, because long periods of
 20 high chronic stress can adversely effect human
 21 health and is, again, indirectly correlated with a
 22 lot of different adverse health outcomes. So the
 23 increased stress is probably one of the larger
 24 effects that we looked at and focused on.

25 Finally, one of the other issues that was

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1 addressed was community cohesion, and it's related
 2 to stress as well. In the community there may be
 3 some people who benefit more from the project
 4 financially than others. For example, not everyone
 5 who lives in Nuiqsut is a shareholder of the
 6 village corporation. So when you have the benefits
 7 of the project being distributed differently
 8 throughout the community, where some people benefit
 9 and some people might not benefit as much, that
 10 just tends to raise the potential for conflicts
 11 within the community.

12 In addition, there are, in general, some
 13 people in the community that support development
 14 and some people that don't. So, again, these
 15 projects tend to sometimes raise tensions within
 16 the community. Again, all of that relates back to
 17 stress, and the potential health effects associated
 18 with that.

19 So in the draft environmental impact
 20 statement you'll find much more detailed
 21 information on all of those.

22 Then when we looked at the comparison of
 23 alternatives, the issues that I've been talking
 24 about really aren't related to a specific
 25 alternative. All of the alternatives would have

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1 the same effect. So there's really not much
 2 difference that you can show from any of the
 3 alternatives on human health and safety. Because
 4 the roads and the central processing facility
 5 differ by alternative, and there was some general
 6 feeling in the community that the further away the
 7 central processing facility is, the better or the
 8 further away from the river it is, the better. So
 9 you might be able to say: Well, maybe those that
 10 are further away are a little bit better, but
 11 there's no substantive change between the different
 12 alternatives.

13 In terms of oil spill risk, this was looked
 14 at a little differently. Obviously it's not
 15 something that's proposed as part of the project,
 16 but we did have to look at what is the potential
 17 for oil spill risk from a project like this and
 18 what are the potential environmental effects. So
 19 we have an entire chapter in the environmental
 20 impact statement that does a risk assessment on oil
 21 spills. It's based on studies that have been done
 22 by the EPA and the Department of Environmental
 23 Conservation looking at the history of oil and gas
 24 development on the North Slope.

25 What we found when we did the risk

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1 assessment is that the very small spills, the
2 spills that are less than 100 gallons, typically
3 occur during vehicle maintenance activities or even
4 maintenance on some of the process piping and
5 things like that, where you might have small spills
6 that are on the gravel operations pads, and they
7 don't typically travel far or go far off of the
8 pads; but those are more likely to occur than some
9 of the larger spills.
10 When you get to the medium to medium-large
11 spills, there you're looking more at things like if
12 a fuel tanker was to go off the road and leaked
13 fuel adjacent to the road or if there was some type
14 of major spill when a tanker truck is being
15 offloaded of fuel or something. Again, they're
16 pretty rare when you look at the history on the
17 North Slope, but they do occur occasionally.
18 Typically if something like that happens,
19 it's going to be noticed pretty quickly. People
20 are going to respond to it. The contamination is
21 not going to spread far, but it does have more
22 potential to spread than the smaller spills that
23 occur right on the operations pads.
24 Then, the very large spills. There you're
25 talking about catastrophic spills, like a well

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1 blowout or a storage tank catastrophic failure or a
2 pipeline failure. You know, the likelihood of
3 something like that happening, based on the history
4 of development and operations on the Slope, is
5 very, very low; but, again, if that was to happen,
6 there's more potential for that to get out into the
7 environment.
8 So what we did with the risk assessment
9 then was each of the resource specialists, when
10 they wrote their section on the environmental
11 effects on resources, talked about what would be
12 the effect on their particular resource if a small
13 spill occurred, if a medium spill occurred, or if
14 the rare occurrence of one of these very large
15 spills occurred.
16 So in the EIS you'll find information both
17 in the chapter that lays out the potential for
18 these types of risks, and then in each resource
19 section you'll find information on the potential
20 effects on that resource from these types of
21 spills.
22 So that was a very short summary of some of
23 the impact assessments that have been done. As we
24 mentioned, there's a lot more information in the
25 environmental impact statement that we hope you'll

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1 look at.
2 With that, I'm going to turn it back over
3 to Ellen to talk about where we go from here.
4 MS. LYONS: Thank you, Maryellen.
5 So what happens next? Again, right now
6 we're in the commenting period on the draft
7 environmental impact statement, which closes the
8 14th of November. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
9 is scheduled to release the final environmental
10 impact statement in May of 2018, with the
11 permitting decision made by the following
12 September.
13 Again, here are the different ways to
14 participate. You have the opportunity tonight to
15 make comments or ask clarifying questions. You can
16 also access the website or e-mail your comments to
17 the Nanushuk EIS at DOWL, or to myself directly at
18 my e-mail address there, or you can fill out a
19 paper form tonight and submit that.
20 So at this time I'm going to invite Joy up,
21 and we're going to open up for comments from you
22 guys. I also just want to say thank you very much
23 for coming tonight and for your interest in the
24 Nanushuk Project.
25 MS. HUNTINGTON: Wow, the crowd has tripled

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1 since I sat down. Nice to see everybody that's
2 joined us. Thank you for being here.
3 So a few quick little housekeeping items.
4 It's great if we can have everyone say their name
5 so that when we're taking comment, again we have
6 our court reporter here, Leslie, that is trying to
7 take everyone's comments down, but we really would
8 love to have your name. So when you're giving your
9 comment or asking a question, if you could please
10 say your name, that would be extremely helpful.
11 We are going to ask that you also use the
12 microphone so that we can get everything recorded
13 very clearly. So if you would like to come to the
14 podium -- it would make you feel happy -- you're
15 welcome to come up here, but I'll also run around
16 and be bringing the microphone to you as well.
17 With that, we have about an hour and 15
18 minutes, I think. So we've got enough time. We
19 encourage people to make their comments or ask
20 questions for any of our folks that have spoken
21 tonight.
22 MR. ARLINGTON: Good evening. My name is
23 Jim Arlington. I'm the business development and
24 marketing director for Afognak Leasing, LLC. It's
25 a wholly owned subsidiary of Afognak Native

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1 Corporation. Afognak Native Corporation was
2 organized in 1977 through a merger of two village
3 corporation established pursuant to the Alaska
4 Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, hereinafter
5 collectively referred to in this testimony as
6 simply Afognak.
7 I'm speaking here tonight on behalf of
8 Afognak to support Armstrong Energy, LLC's proposed
9 action Alternative 2 in the draft environment
10 impact statement, or DEIS, and to allow their
11 Nanushuk Project to move forward.
12 Afognak employs over 4,000 people in nearly
13 every state and several foreign countries with
14 operations in security services,
15 logistics/operations and maintenance, training,
16 technical services, leasing and construction. As a
17 Native corporation principally involved with
18 government contracting, Afognak is very familiar
19 with the process in which, as a lead federal
20 agency, the Corps initiated the National
21 Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, to review the
22 Applicant's Nanushuk Project.
23 That process began, as you have already
24 said, with the publication of a Notice of Intent to
25 prepare an environmental impact statement in the

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1 Federal Register and, as you also said, is going to
2 continue with the Corps overseeing the NEPA
3 process.
4 Afognak appreciates this opportunity to
5 provide this testimony in support of Armstrong
6 Energy, LLC, which I'll hereinafter refer to as the
7 Applicant.
8 The NEPA purpose and need statement is
9 developed through consideration of the purpose and
10 need stated by the Applicant, as you've pointed
11 out. The testimony Afognak is providing this
12 evening is provided to help the Corps to determine
13 that the Applicant's proposed project is the least
14 environmentally damaging practical alternative, or
15 LEDPA, as you say.
16 To provide some context for the comments
17 that Afognak is providing tonight, I think it
18 important that the Corps know something about
19 Afognak's work history in the Arctic, specifically
20 on the North Slope of Alaska and also Afognak's
21 work history with Armstrong.
22 Afognak has many years of experience
23 providing successful housing options to its
24 clients, which include many of the oil and gas
25 operators on the North Slope, such as ExxonMobil,

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1 BP, ConocoPhillips, Repsol, Nordaq, Alyeska
2 Pipeline Service Company, and Armstrong Energy.
3 Afognak has been carefully and rigorously reviewed
4 many times by a multitude of oil and gas companies.
5 Based on our experience, past performance,
6 aggressive schedule, design efficiencies, current
7 operations, commitment to safety, and providing
8 attractive lease and purchase options, Afognak has
9 been the proud recipient of many sole-source
10 awards. The following are examples of those
11 projects:
12 Worley Parsons on the North Slope with
13 their Sea Lion Camp in Deadhorse, 100-bed facility;
14 Shell Oil Company, 60-bed facility in Barrow; BP
15 Alaska, 160-bed, three-story modular facility on
16 Endicott; ExxonMobil Global Services, base of
17 operations camp in Deadhorse; Alyeska Pipeline
18 Service Company, Eagle Lodge and Deadhorse, 73
19 beds; Repsol, the predecessor operator for
20 Armstrong. We provided three camps for three
21 successive years for an initial exploration for
22 what is now the Pikka Unit operated by Armstrong.
23 These sole-source awards were based on
24 Afognak's history of effective scheduled execution,
25 competitive price, efficiency, safety, and project

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1 performance.
2 In addition, Afognak has provided Armstrong
3 Energy, LLC with its workforce housing for the past
4 year and has been drilling in the Pikka Unit and
5 also its exploratory Horseshoe wells.
6 Consequently, Afognak is in a unique position to
7 evaluate the Applicant, Armstrong's, remote arctic
8 drilling operations. Based on Afognak's extensive
9 working experience with and serving oil and gas
10 operators on the North Slope of Alaska, Afognak can
11 confidently assert that the Applicant, Armstrong
12 Energy, LLC, is one of the most environmentally
13 responsible and conscientious operators on the
14 North Slope of Alaska. Their environmental
15 policies are not just manuals on a bookshelf in
16 their office. It's a living, breathing way of life
17 for all of their employees and contractors from our
18 observations.
19 In addition to the Applicant's
20 environmentally responsible operating culture and
21 practices that make them a welcome operator on the
22 North Slope of Alaska, the proposed project will
23 address the following needs:
24 The \$5 billion Nanushuk Project is an
25 important and positive development for all of

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1 Alaska. It has already been described as the
 2 largest oil and gas discovery on the North Slope in
 3 30 years, since the discovery of the Alpine and
 4 Kuparuk oil fields.
 5 The Applicant's proposal, which includes
 6 building gravel roads, pipelines and production
 7 infrastructure on the site, would include an
 8 all-season gravel road between the Kuparuk drill
 9 site and the proposed Nanushuk facilities and the
 10 central processing facility as you've described.
 11 The total footprint of the project under the
 12 Applicant's proposal is only approximately
 13 272 acres, extremely minimal for the aerial size of
 14 the oil and gas reserves to be produced.
 15 The field is expected to hold at least 1.2
 16 billion barrels of oil and produce up to 120,000
 17 barrels per day, a production that's desperately
 18 needed to help maintain the TransAlaska Pipeline
 19 system, or TAPS, which is Alaska's economic
 20 lifeline. As most people here know, TAPS is now
 21 running at three-quarters capacity or
 22 three-quarters empty. The Nanushuk Project has the
 23 potential to significantly increase TAPS throughput
 24 and revenues to the State of Alaska.
 25 The project would generate significant

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1 long-term business and economic activity and up to
 2 600 North Slope construction jobs for Alaskans. In
 3 addition, 60 direct jobs would be created in
 4 Anchorage, and one to three rigs supporting
 5 development for five years would generate 120 to
 6 150 jobs per rig and more through fabrication,
 7 logistics, and indirect jobs.
 8 The Nanushuk Project is located near
 9 existing industry infrastructure, minimizing
 10 potential environmental impact. The project would
 11 extend west from existing Kuparuk infrastructure in
 12 an area that has seen recent exploration and
 13 development activity by Caelus Energy Alaska,
 14 (Ooguruk, and the proposed Nuna project located
 15 northeast of the project) and Brooks Range
 16 Petroleum Company (the proposed Mustang project
 17 located southeast of the project location.)
 18 Thanks to continuing improvements in
 19 technology, practices, and oversight, the oil
 20 industry has demonstrated that North Slope energy
 21 development and environmental stewardship does
 22 coexist responsibly.
 23 Industry has a proven record of
 24 accomplishment, of responsible development in
 25 environmentally sensitive areas, protecting the

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1 environment, wildlife, and subsistence needs of
 2 local residents.
 3 Since the Corps must consider the direct,
 4 indirect, and cumulative effects of the project,
 5 Afognak firmly believes that the Corps should
 6 approve Alternative 2, the Applicant's proposed
 7 action, and allow the project to move forward since
 8 this Alternative 2 is the least environmentally
 9 damaging, practicable alternative.
 10 Thank you for your time and consideration.
 11 MS. HUNTINGTON: Thank you very much, sir.
 12 I just want to let folks in the back know
 13 that we have several chairs up here. So please
 14 come up and sit down. There are some chairs in the
 15 middle in different places. If folks want to kind
 16 of scoot into the middle, maybe people would feel
 17 more comfortable sitting at the ends than climbing
 18 over people. So I just wanted to let you know to
 19 please come up and get comfortable.
 20 MR. PORTMAN: Good evening. My name is
 21 Carl Portman, deputy direct of the Resource
 22 Development Council.
 23 RDC is supportive of the Nanushuk Project,
 24 which could ultimately prove to be one of the
 25 largest oil fields discovered on the North Slope.

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1 RDC is a statewide nonprofit business association
 2 comprised of individuals and companies from
 3 Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, and fishing
 4 industries, as well as Native regional and village
 5 corporations, local governments, and organized
 6 labor.
 7 All of these entities have a very strong
 8 interest in seeing Alaska North Slope production
 9 increase. We believe that increased production in
 10 TAPS can grow Alaska out of the recession that
 11 we're currently in. This project could be key to
 12 that.
 13 New production from the Nanushuk Project
 14 could add up to 120,000 barrels of oil per day into
 15 the TransAlaska Pipeline. As I mentioned, Alaska
 16 desperately needs more oil production. This
 17 project has the potential to deliver significant
 18 new volumes.
 19 This multi-billion dollar project is vital
 20 to Alaska's depressed economy. It could be one of
 21 the most significant discoveries on the North Slope
 22 since the discovery of the Kuparuk and Alpine oil
 23 fields. Kuparuk itself is the second largest
 24 conventional oil field discovered in North America.
 25 So that puts this project in ideal perspective.

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1 The Nanushuk Project would generate
2 significant long-term economic activity across
3 Alaska. For each direct oil industry job, 20
4 additional jobs are generated across the Alaska
5 economy. Given the Nanushuk Project is located
6 near existing infrastructure, environmental impacts
7 are likely to be minimal. RDC is confident the
8 Nanushuk Project can be developed in a responsible
9 and safe manner, given industry's experience -- 40
10 years' plus experience on the North Slope.
11 We support Alternative 2, the Applicant's
12 proposed action, and encourage the Corps to move
13 forward in a timely manner. Thank you for the
14 opportunity to express our support for this
15 important project. We'll send in some more
16 in-depth comments later. Thank you.
17 MS. HUNTINGTON: Thank you so much.
18 MR. PRICE: I'll take the podium.
19 My name's Jeremy Price. I'm the Alaska
20 state director for Americans for Prosperity. I was
21 raised on a homestead started by my grandfather in
22 the mid-1950s out in Salcha. I have two brothers
23 that are journeyman electricians working for the
24 family business in the Interior. I have an older
25 brother who is the general manager of Colville,

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1 which was actually started in the region decades
2 ago.
3 I rise in support of Alternative 2, the
4 proposed action. I'm here in Anchorage. I live in
5 South Anchorage in Bayshore. I'm raising my three
6 kids with my wife, and the future of Alaska depends
7 on projects like this. Our family's future depends
8 on projects like this. We support it because it is
9 the future of the state. Oil is the life blood of
10 this state.
11 We peaked capacity in the TransAlaska
12 Pipeline at 2 million barrels a day in the early
13 '90s. Now we're half-million barrels. So I would
14 urge the Corps to approve the proposed action. I
15 wholeheartedly support it. The industry has a
16 proven record of doing this safely and soundly and
17 respecting the environment. They know how to do it
18 and do it right. So please approve this project.
19 Alaska depends on it, and my family's
20 future depends on it. Thank you.
21 MR. SELL: Thank you. My name is Russell
22 Sell. I'm with PRL Logistics here in Anchorage.
23 We're a global logistics company that supports the
24 oil and gas industry, defense agencies, the United
25 States, and foreign entities. I've been in the oil

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1 and gas business since 1978, both offshore and
2 onshore. I've been around a lot of production and
3 drill sites during that period of time.
4 I don't have some elaborate statement to
5 make and ongoing presentation. But you want to
6 find out about PRL Logistics, just go to our PRL
7 Logistics dot com. You can see all our clients --
8 you can see all of our clients as well as our work
9 history.
10 The most important thing here is everybody
11 has to understand that this boils down to -- as I
12 said almost a year ago, this boils down to your
13 families. This project is equally as important as
14 any other new project coming to the North Slope.
15 We all have a need at home to create budgets with
16 optimizations, that create efficiencies, that make
17 our lives easier, and get the job done at our home
18 level.
19 I can take a very high-level approach or I
20 can be very tactful, which is where I'm going to be
21 tonight. Alternative 2 is the way to go on this.
22 These individuals, the presenters here, have been
23 diligent in their efforts to create a plan that
24 provides efficiencies and optimizations to their
25 business model, and provides a product that's

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1 generally good for the State of Alaska and good for
2 our markets elsewhere.
3 I would encourage you to look at this very
4 carefully. Think about how you would manage your
5 budget at home. Think about how you would plan
6 your life at home, and use those optimizations and
7 efficiencies much like they have to come up with a
8 plan that's expected to work and produce.
9 Thank you very much.
10 MS. HUNTINGTON: We may need people to use
11 the microphone in front. I fixed it.
12 MR. BELL: I'm Bob Bell, F. Robert Bell &
13 Associates. I started out with ARCO in 1974 as a
14 facility engineer in Prudhoe Bay. We provided
15 engineering and surveying on Pet 4 all the way to
16 the gas field at Barrow and all the way east to
17 Point Thomson. We've worked on every single oil
18 field that's ever been developed on the North
19 Slope. I've personally been involved in all of
20 that.
21 I can tell you that the oil industry goes
22 to extreme -- extreme -- losing the word here --
23 effort to protect the environment. If you look on
24 Pet 4, when we did those wells there, many of them
25 on ice pads, we'd go back there a year later and

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1 you'd never know we were there. So the industry
2 does a tremendous job. I mean, the billions of
3 barrels that we've pumped down that pipeline and
4 not very much of it has hit the ground.
5 So I think there's a history here that we
6 all need to emphasize, that this field is extremely
7 important, 120,000 barrels a day. State of Alaska
8 gets 4-and-a-half percent of that, plus the taxes
9 that go with it, plus the time to take a barrel of
10 oil from Pump 1 to Valdez has gone from a matter of
11 days to a matter of weeks. That causes all kinds
12 of problems.
13 So 120,000 barrels a day would be real
14 handy. We've got a couple other fields coming up
15 that will help with that, too. But my main point
16 is that of all the years I've spent with the oil
17 industry across the whole North Slope, I've never
18 observed the oil industry being cavalier about
19 protecting the environment. I'm sure they'll do it
20 on this project, too.
21 MS. HUNTINGTON: Thank you, sir.
22 MR. STACEY: Good evening. My name is
23 Dennis Stacey. I'm a 40-years resident of the
24 State of Alaska.
25 I wanted to say that I support the

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1 selection of Alternative 2 of the Armstrong Energy
2 and Repsol project for the Nanushuk development so
3 this vital development can move forward. The
4 project is in relatively close proximity to
5 existing infrastructure, including gravel roads,
6 pipelines, and processing facilities. It's not a
7 novel type of development for this region of
8 Alaska. It will blend well with the existing
9 development in the area.
10 I personally worked on building ice roads
11 and ice pads for drilling for this project for
12 several previous winters, including the project
13 this last winner for the Horseshoe No. 1
14 exploratory well. As a health, safety,
15 environmental officer to one of the contractors on
16 the project, I've seen firsthand the attention
17 Armstrong and Repsol give to minimizing any
18 negative environmental impacts to the project.
19 The Alaskan oil industry truly has set the
20 highest global standard for environmental
21 stewardship --
22 Thank you. You've got the touch.
23 Anyway, the Alaskan oil industry set the
24 global standard for environmental stewardship in
25 their projects, and Armstrong and Repsol have

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1 exemplified that standard. They've also had --
2 they've been very careful to have no negative
3 impacts on the local indigenous populations. Their
4 project proposal is well-planned and designed to
5 produce oil from a field with minimal impacts on
6 the surrounding lands.
7 The Armstrong/Repsol Nanushuk Project has
8 made a very significant new oil discovery on the
9 North Slope that can have an extremely positive
10 impact on the U.S. and the Alaskan economy, local
11 job creation with a thousand or more new direct
12 jobs created by the construction effort, drilling
13 of new wells, pipeline construction, and
14 fabrication of the facilities. Then after that,
15 several hundred production jobs.
16 The planned production of 120,000 barrels a
17 day will help fill the TransAlaska Pipeline system
18 and create new royalty and tax revenues for the
19 State of Alaska as well as for boroughs and local
20 governments. The Trump administration is focused
21 on the creation of new jobs and wealth to create
22 economic opportunities. This project will do
23 exactly that while developing these natural
24 resources in an environmentally responsible manner.
25 I encourage the prompt adoption of Alternative 2

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1 for the EIS.
2 That concludes my remarks.
3 MS. HANSEN: I'm sorry, but we would like
4 people to go up front because we want to make sure
5 everyone can hear and we want to make sure we
6 record them correctly. So if you would like to
7 make another comment, feel free to go up to the
8 podium.
9 MR. JESPERSON: I'm Michael Jespersen. I
10 do not, nor have I ever, worked for an oil company.
11 Everything I do is based on what's going to be the
12 best for my three kids. Tonight that's to get this
13 project going on Alternative No. 2.
14 We need more jobs in this state. We need
15 places that my kids don't have to go outside when
16 they finish college. I want them to stay home,
17 live near me, and go to work. So let's get this
18 project going. More oil in the pipeline means less
19 out of your wallet every year. So let's get it
20 going. Thank you.
21 MS. HUNTINGTON: Anyone else have any
22 comments or questions?
23 Are you going to let them off the hook?
24 You don't have any questions on the alternatives or
25 any of the maps that were presented?

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1 MR. MOONEY: My name is Lawrence Mooney.
2 I'm the president of Laborers Local 341.
3 Our 2,000 members of our union strongly
4 support Armstrong and the No. 2 choice that they
5 had up there. The reason why we support it is
6 because our membership works on the pipeline. Now,
7 what happens with us is when somebody needs to walk
8 out on the tundra, and these oil companies make
9 sure that there's a piece of plywood that goes one
10 after the other, so there's no footprint on the
11 tundra. We're the guys that do it.
12 When these oil companies in the industry
13 goes out there to sand blast a piece of pipe, it's
14 our guys that go behind them and suck up as much of
15 that sand blast sand as we possibly can to make
16 sure that there's none of it left on the tundra.
17 None of it. That's the reason why we support it is
18 because, one, because it brings us jobs. We're
19 contractually obliged to supply 20 percent of our
20 manpower Alaska Natives to go to work out there.
21 So that ensures local hire.
22 Thirdly, the reason -- I guess thirdly the
23 reason why we support it is a lot of our members,
24 as I said, they're Natives. I'm into subsistence.
25 Like it or not, right now in this state this has

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1 become subsistence. Without oil this state is
2 going to die. This is what it subsidizes on. This
3 is what we live on here. So for your children, for
4 the people that work here, for the jobs here, for
5 the real estate market here, for all the social
6 problems that come behind unemployment, we strongly
7 support this project.
8 Thank you.
9 MS. HUNTINGTON: So holding the microphone
10 up a little bit closer would be helpful. Everyone
11 has a nice loud voice, too, so we've been able to
12 hear everybody, but just a little reminder.
13 MS. MORIARTY: Thank you. I don't have
14 quite the accent, so I apologize.
15 My name is Kara Moriarty, and I'm the
16 president and CEO of the Alaska Oil and Gas
17 Association. Although Armstrong is not a member of
18 our trade association, we are very supportive of
19 their project. And it looks like the Corps has
20 done a really fabulous job. Honestly, I've been to
21 a lot of these. The presentation tonight with the
22 different colors, the different alternatives,
23 explaining the alternatives and the pros and cons
24 is very well done.
25 Honestly, as AOGA, we don't necessarily

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1 have a preferred alternative because this is the
2 first time I've heard the presentation. But I
3 would say we are very supportive to make sure that
4 the project is completed and done right, because in
5 the broader context, even though Armstrong is not
6 an official member of our trade association, we're
7 all one industry. And when there's 100,000-plus
8 barrels a day put in a 550,000-barrel current
9 production in the pipeline, that lowers the
10 transportation costs for all the other barrels
11 going down the pipeline.
12 So when all of these projects come online,
13 they all help each other even though the companies
14 may be competitors. So it's hiring the local
15 folks; it's hiring my union friends; it's hiring
16 the engineers; it's hiring the accountants. When
17 we're in an economy where we have lost thousands of
18 oil and gas jobs over the last 18 months, this is a
19 great project, and one of the near-term projects,
20 along with a couple others on the North Slope right
21 now, that could allow Alaska to help grow us out of
22 this recession.
23 I just encourage the Corps to be diligent.
24 I look forward to seeing the final approval and
25 getting folks to work. Thank you.

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1 MS. HUNTINGTON: Thank you very much. As I
2 mentioned earlier in the meeting as well, Leslie
3 will be here after we're done with kind of the
4 public part of this meeting. So if there's anyone
5 that really wants to just make comments, have them
6 on the record, but maybe not stand up here in front
7 of the whole room -- not everybody loves the
8 microphone -- so we'd be happy to have you just
9 come up. We had someone do that in Fairbanks last
10 night. So they made comments directly into a
11 recording device. That will be taken into account
12 just as much as your comments made publicly this
13 evening.
14 So the microphone is still open, and we
15 still have quite a bit of time. I might just put
16 it down and not stare at you and wait for you to
17 come up. If you feel comfortable, please come up
18 and make some comments. I'm going to turn it off
19 so it's not loud.
20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Good evening.
21 I'm actually the former president of Kuukpik, a
22 landowner, which now I reside here in Anchorage
23 because of my wife's health, which now I'm the
24 president of my construction arm of Kuukpik and oil
25 and gas.

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1 I actually support the project to move
2 forward for a number of reasons: Employment
3 opportunity, sharing of tax revenue for the State
4 of Alaska, our Municipality, which costs to
5 operate, to provide services. After looking
6 through all these alternatives, I myself support
7 Alternative 5. It is more -- least practicable
8 alternative with less footprint.

9 Under terms that Armstrong as the landowner
10 will have to deal with a land use agreement with
11 Kuukpik and make sure this project is
12 environmentally sound. Therefore, I support this
13 project to move forward because it brings
14 opportunities for everybody.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. HUNTINGTON: If there's no one that
17 wants to come up right at this moment, we do have
18 the maps up in the back. So please feel free to
19 look at those. Again, there's more seats in the
20 front. There's food in the back. I will turn the
21 microphone off and just leave it here for a little
22 bit. If you are ready to go, I'm sure that's fine.
23 If you want to make comments or talk to anyone
24 individually -- the Applicant is also here as well.
25 So if you have questions or comments directly to

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1 the Applicant, I'm sure they'd be happy to answer
2 those and speak with you. They stood up earlier,
3 so if you want to raise your hand again and just
4 let folks know who you are. Of course we have
5 everyone here from the EIS team that has presented
6 this evening. So I'm going to turn this on. I
7 think you might see everyone get up and try to
8 leave. So I would take this opportunity, probably
9 in the next few minutes, to make a comment if you'd
10 still like to do so. We do have someone.

11 MR. STOKES: Hi, my name is Pete Stokes,
12 and I have grown up in Alaska and worked most of my
13 life in Alaska. I'm a petroleum engineer.

14 And I definitely support this project.
15 It's a new development right near infrastructure on
16 the North Slope. Oil and gas is the life blood of
17 Alaska. There's not anything that's going to
18 replace it very easily, either east or west; but
19 this is, as I say, right in the middle of
20 infrastructure. It will allow the TAPS pipeline to
21 continue to flow oil and keep tariffs down for all
22 projects, which is good for the State and it's good
23 for all the populace in the State considering that
24 anywhere from 70 to 90 percent of the State's
25 unrestricted budget comes from oil and gas taxes

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1 and royalties.

2 So in summary, I support the Applicant's
3 Alternative 2, although looking at the application,
4 it looks like Alternative 5 would work pretty well
5 as well. So either one of those would really work
6 for the State of Alaska.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. HUNTINGTON: Thank you, sir. Usually
9 when I'm setting the microphone down, there's at
10 least one person that wants to jump in. So we'll
11 go ahead and -- see, I knew it.

12 MR. HILL: My name is Jim Hill. I work
13 with All Pro.

14 I don't have any direct correlation to the
15 oil fields or oil jobs, but I work with warehouses.
16 I work with transportation. I brought my son here
17 today so he could kind of see what the process is.

18 You know, it's very clear that we need
19 these jobs in Alaska. It's very clear that we need
20 to fill the pipeline, and it's what keeps us
21 running as a state. It looks like -- actually I'm
22 partial to 5 myself, but if 2 were to proceed, you
23 know, as long as there's no hold-up in the project.
24 That's what I'm looking for. I'm looking for some
25 relief. I'm looking for my customers to have

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1 relief. And I'm looking for a future for my son.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. HUNTINGTON: Thank you for bringing
4 your son. Would he like to make any comments?
5 Good practice.

6 All right. Well, I'm going to go ahead and
7 turn the microphone off. If you'd like to come up
8 here in the next few minutes or speak with anybody
9 directly -- definitely take a comment card. There
10 are CDs of the full draft, I believe, out there as
11 well. If you want to comb through about 1100 pages
12 or so, you may come up with other questions or
13 other feedback for the team here. I'm sure they'd
14 be happy to receive those or answer questions via
15 e-mail as well.

16 MS. LYONS: I'd actually like to take the
17 opportunity to say something that I failed to
18 mention earlier. That is there are two parallel
19 and concurrent processes that are going on right
20 now. We have the EIS, the writing of the EIS, but
21 we also have a Public Notice for the Corps permit
22 out as well. The comment period on the Public
23 Notice for the permit closes on November 14th, the
24 same date as the EIS. I would encourage you to
25 take a look at the Public Notice, and if you have

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1 any comments specifically on the project, you can
2 provide comments to me directly.

3 All of this information is located on a
4 Nanushuk EIS dot com website, and also on the Corps
5 of Engineers Alaska regulatory website. I also
6 want to say that if you only provide comments on
7 the EIS, all of those comments will still be
8 considered during the permit decision process.

9 Also, I want to just thank you all for
10 coming tonight and having interest in this project.
11 Last call for comments. Okay. Well, the
12 microphone's up here.

13 (Public meeting concluded at 7:16 p.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATE
2

3 I, LESLIE J. KNISLEY, Notary Public for
4 the State of Alaska, and Shorthand Reporter, do
5 hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were
6 taken before me at the time and place herein set
7 forth; that the proceedings were reported
8 stenographically by me and later transcribed by
9 computer transcription; that the foregoing is a
10 true record of the proceedings taken at that time;
11 and that I am not a party to, nor do I have any
12 interest in, the outcome of the action herein
13 contained.

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
15 my hand and affixed my seal this 23rd day of
16 October, 2017.

17 
18
19

20 LESLIE J. KNISLEY
21 Notary Public, State of Alaska
22 My commission expires: 06/06/20
23
24
25

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