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PUBLIC HEARING
FOR
DP005 - LIBERTY PROJECT
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Utqiagvik, Alaska

Taken October 3, 2017
Commencing at 7:05 p.m.

Volume I - Pages 1 - 29, inclusive

Taken at
Inupiat Heritage Center
5421 North Star Street
Utquagvik, Alaska

Reported by:
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S

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For U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

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Project Manager

BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken
at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before
Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary
Public within and for the State of Alaska.

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: Good evening,
3 everybody. We are going to begin tonight. My name is
4 Michael Haller, and I'm the tribal and community liaison
5 for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management of the United
6 States Department of the Interior from our Anchorage and
7 Alaska Region.

8 And so before I introduce my boss, I'd ask Nancy
9 Leavitt if she would be kind enough to offer a blessing
10 for us tonight.

11 (Invocation offered by Nancy Leavitt.)

12 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: Thank you, Nancy.
13 It's my pleasure to introduce to you Dr. James Kendall who
14 is the Regional Director for the Bureau of Ocean Energy
15 Management. Jim.

16 DR. JAMES KENDALL: I think I don't need
17 this because I'm a very loud person. And I would normally
18 say that I was a little disappointed that we don't have so
19 many people here; however, I understand it's a very
20 special day. Barrow has gotten, what, three whales today?

21 MR. JOE LEAVITT: Three whales today.
22 Four so far. That's a blessing.

23 DR. JAMES KENDALL: That's an absolute
24 blessing. And that's real important, so I don't mind the
25 light turnout, because that's an important thing for

1 Barrow. And please take congratulations back to the
2 whaling captains. Thank you very much.

3 As Mike said, I am the Regional Director for BOEM
4 here in Alaska. First of all, the Bureau of Ocean Energy
5 Management, or BOEM, is not an oil company. We are not
6 the State of Alaska. We are a federal agency that does
7 regulation and resource management. So we try to be the
8 honest broker as best we can.

9 Tonight we are going to have a public hearing on a
10 Draft Environmental Impact Statement that we have recently
11 written for a proposal we have gotten from Hilcorp on
12 developing the Liberty area in the Beaufort Sea. You are
13 going to hear more about that a little bit later.

14 But first I'd like to introduce my team because it's
15 just not me that does the work. There is people that
16 really do a lot of work here.

17 And first of all, very important, Mary Vavrik. She
18 is our court reporter. Since this is a hearing,
19 everything that's said Mary is going to type up so that we
20 can take it back with us and use that to prepare a better
21 Environmental Impact Statement. So please make sure she
22 can hear you, and state your name beforehand.

23 Also behind us we have got Lauren Boldrick. Lauren
24 works in my office. And she is the project manager for
25 BOEM. So she follows all this and makes sure it hums.

1 Mark Storzer. Mark Storzer is our regional supervisor for
2 environment. He oversees our environmental work,
3 including our science.

4 Fran Mann. Fran Mann is over there. Now, Fran is
5 the supervisor in charge of the people that actually wrote
6 this draft document that's out today. Mike Haller you
7 already met, my tribal and community liaison. He was the
8 first tribal and community liaison for our bureau, so we
9 are very proud of Mike. He does a great job.

10 Now, there are extra people in the room here. One
11 thing we have heard many times when we came to Barrow is
12 there are too many federal meetings and you people keep
13 coming back, and it's night after night of meetings.
14 Well, what we did because we work with partners is we
15 brought some of our partner agencies with us so that we
16 don't have to bother you all the time with so many
17 meetings.

18 So from the EPA we've got Hanh Shaw and Erin
19 Seyfried. Where are you hiding? Right over there. They
20 are from EPA. They are helping us do this document. We
21 have got Heather Markway. Heather, she is from the U.S.
22 Army Corps of Engineers that's also helping us to write
23 the document.

24 We have got Kevin Pendergast and Steve Pearson.
25 There is Steve and Kevin. They work for BSEE, the Bureau

1 of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. They are helping
2 to write the document.

3 We also have partners such as from the State as well
4 as the North Slope Borough, and we have had input from the
5 Inupiat Communities of the Arctic Slope. They have helped
6 with the document. We have representation. Lloyd, you
7 are here from ICAS, which is great. So that's why there
8 are so many people in the room because we have had a lot
9 of help.

10 This document is just not our document. It's
11 everybody's document. And when we are done with it, that
12 document will go to a decisionmaker who then will make a
13 decision. And so what we're here for is for people to
14 help us make the document as good as we can so the
15 decisionmaker has everything he or she has in front of
16 them to make the decision for everybody. So this is
17 really a team effort, and everybody in this room is a team
18 player.

19 So with that, I'm going to quit talking, and I'm
20 going to turn it over to Lauren, who has a little
21 presentation for you to bring you up to speed on what this
22 is all about. So Lauren, take it away.

23 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: Hi, everyone, and
24 thank you for joining us today.

25 The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has been

1 working in cooperation with our stakeholders on the
2 Liberty project since late 2015. This slide displays the
3 covers of Volume 1 and Volume 2 of the Draft Environmental
4 Impact Statement. This large overview map shows the
5 proposed Liberty island location, which is about 60 miles
6 from Nuiqsut and about 70 miles from Kaktovik. This more
7 detailed map shows that the proposed Liberty island will
8 be about eight miles from Endicott Satellite Drilling
9 Island.

10 So this slide shows a summary of Hilcorp's proposed
11 action that we received in their Liberty development and
12 production plan.

13 Hilcorp is planning to initiate commercial
14 hydrocarbon production of the Liberty reservoir by the
15 winter of 2021 to 2023. As described in the Liberty
16 development and production plan, the Liberty development
17 would be a self-contained Outer Continental Shelf drilling
18 and production facility located on an artificial gravel
19 island with a 5.6-mile pipeline to shore that will
20 continue 1.5 miles over land to the Badami tie-in point.
21 The Liberty development will include a new onshore gravel
22 mine, an onshore tie-in pad and the construction of
23 onshore and offshore ice roads.

24 The proposed Liberty development includes five
25 stages: The development of a new gravel mine,

1 construction of ice roads, construction of a manmade
2 gravel production island, and drilling and hydrocarbon
3 production.

4 BOEM accepted scoping comments on this draft EIS
5 during the 186-day public scoping period, which lasted
6 from September 2015 through March of 2016. BOEM received
7 several thousand comments, which included concerns over
8 subsistence whaling, impacts to marine mammals and
9 threatened and endangered species, the possibility of oil
10 spills in the Arctic environment, and potential impacts to
11 the unique boulder patch ecosystem. Commenters also
12 suggested alternate locations for gravel sources, for oil
13 and gas processing, and for the island itself.

14 These comments and concerns were used to develop and
15 inform the analysis of additional action alternatives in
16 the draft EIS.

17 As shown on this slide, many other federal, state and
18 local governments have been cooperating with BOEM on the
19 development of the draft EIS.

20 BOEM has analyzed five alternatives in the draft EIS.
21 Hilcorp's proposed action as described earlier, including
22 normal best management practices, operator-committed
23 measures and cooperating agency typical permit allowances
24 as mitigation measures constitutes Alternative 1.

25 In addition to the proposed action, the National

1 Environmental Policy Act requires analysis of a no action
2 alternative, meaning that no part of Hilcorp's proposal
3 would occur. This is Alternative 2 in the draft EIS.

4 The remaining three alternatives were developed as a
5 result of scoping comments about alternate island
6 location, alternative gravel mine locations and alternate
7 processing locations.

8 In response to public comments suggesting an
9 alternative that would relocate the island in order to
10 avoid or reduce impacts to boulder patch communities, BOEM
11 asked Hilcorp to identify possible alternate island
12 locations that would maintain the technical feasibility of
13 its project. In addition, these alternate locations would
14 minimize impacts to the boulder patch from turbidity and
15 sedimentation associated with construction activities
16 and/or move the island and other project components as far
17 from the densest areas of known boulder patch habitat as
18 practical.

19 Therefore, based on public comment as well as
20 responses from Hilcorp, BOEM developed two
21 subalternatives. Alternative 3A would relocate the island
22 to a site about one mile to the east. This would result
23 in the island being about one mile further from the
24 densest areas of the boulder patch as compared to the
25 proposed action. Alternative 3B would locate the island

1 about 1.5 miles closer to shore into state of Alaska
2 waters, placing the island about 1.5 miles further from
3 the densest areas of the boulder patch as compared to the
4 proposed action.

5 Alternative 4A and 4B analyze alternate processing
6 locations. Alternative 4A analyzes processing at the
7 existing Endicott Satellite Drilling Island facility, and
8 Alternative 4B analyzes processing at a new onshore
9 facility. BOEM assumed for the purpose of the draft EIS
10 that this new onshore facility would be where the pipeline
11 is already proposed to come ashore.

12 Scoping comments suggested BOEM analyze an alternate
13 location for the proposed West Kadleroshilik River mine
14 site No. 1 to minimize impacts to migratory birds, fish
15 and wetlands used for subsistence purposes and other
16 resources. BOEM conducted a thorough review of existing
17 technical and survey information and, based on this
18 review, identified three plausible alternate locations for
19 analysis.

20 In the draft EIS, BOEM used four types of mitigation
21 measures in its analyses. These included lease
22 stipulations, operator-committed measures, typical
23 requirements from our cooperating agencies, and resulting
24 consultation and project-specific measures.

25 The draft EIS analyzes the impacts of the various

1 alternatives with the intent of disclosing those impacts
2 to the public and to the decisionmakers. In the case of
3 the Liberty Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the
4 decisionmaker ultimately is the Secretary of Interior.
5 The draft EIS also considers mitigation measures that
6 could minimize the impacts of the action alternatives.

7 Impacts to the resources in the action area range
8 from negligible to major, depending on the resource and
9 the scope of the analysis. A very large oil spill is not
10 considered part of the proposed action or alternatives and
11 is extremely unlikely. Impacts from a very large oil
12 spill would be major. Additional information is available
13 in the materials provided at this presentation tonight.

14 Comments that suggest additional information for
15 analysis or note issues not considered in the draft EIS
16 are very helpful and considered substantive comments.
17 These will be used to inform the preparation of the final
18 EIS. To make a comment go to www.regulations.gov and
19 search for Document No. BOEM-2015-0068-0164. Click the
20 "comment now" button in the top corner of the page to add
21 your comment. The comment period closes on November 18th.
22 We also have computers available in the back of the room
23 for you to make your comment here tonight.

24 BOEM would like to thank you for your attendance and
25 participation tonight.

1 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Okay. Thank you,
2 Lauren. We do have a sign-in sheet for speakers. So we
3 are going to go through the sign-in sheet for speakers,
4 but we will also just open it up for others that decide
5 that they want to say something after they came in.

6 Yes, Lois.

7 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: Is there an opportunity
8 for questions before people speak?

9 DR. JAMES KENDALL: It's a public hearing.
10 You can ask questions, and we will get them in the record.

11 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: Questions on the
12 presentation.

13 DR. JAMES KENDALL: We really didn't plan
14 for that, but we can take a few questions. Whether we
15 have the answers or not, I am not 100 percent sure. What
16 question do you have?

17 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: So Lauren, I don't know
18 if you can pull one of the maps back up.

19 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Lauren, could you
20 bring the map back up? I see what you are getting at.

21 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: Which one?

22 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: The one that shows the
23 distance to --

24 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: Like the large
25 overview map?

1 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: That's fine. No.
2 Actually, the next one. The next one. Okay. So my
3 question is, what is the distance from the tie-in facility
4 to the Liberty island?

5 DR. JAMES KENDALL: The total distance?

6 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: 7.1 miles, I
7 believe.

8 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Uh-huh.

9 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: Okay. So when the --
10 the extended reach drilling was looked at -- and I'm
11 getting this from the document. It says that the world
12 record was 40,000 feet.

13 DR. JAMES KENDALL: I believe that's the
14 case.

15 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: It's 42,300 and --

16 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: When it was written it
17 was 40,600. Where is that?

18 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: In Sakhalin Island
19 in Russia.

20 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: And I didn't do the
21 math, so basically that's --

22 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: When we did the --

23 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: How does that compare
24 to this?

25 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: When we did the

1 technical feasibility assessment of this, we worked with
2 BSEE because EPA suggested it's something we review for an
3 alternative. So we analyzed -- and this will be in the
4 records at the -- it's not in the draft EIS because it's a
5 very long review.

6 But we analyzed drilling the UERD from Endicott SDI
7 and then from another onshore location. Both of those
8 locations are still about a mile beyond what Sakhalin has
9 done. And Sakhalin has had the world record for, I think,
10 nine wells, if I remember. Nine to 13. So that was one
11 of the factors is that the world record is still about a
12 mile below what Liberty would need to be.

13 The second part of it was that it would decrease
14 production by our resource evaluation models of about 25
15 percent. So between those two things, those two big
16 factors of going through line by line of all of the world
17 records for UERD, how much drilling mud there would be and
18 all these other resources, what kind of rig they would
19 need, and looking at how much it would decrease production
20 from that island, we decided that it was technically
21 infeasible.

22 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: One final question.
23 Could that seven miles be reduced by a mile or two to get
24 closer because it's not right at the coast?

25 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: No. We looked at

1 several different points in the reservoir. So it would
2 decrease production more and more.

3 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: No. If you had a
4 shorter distance from the tie-in facility.

5 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: If you got closer --
6 we looked at right on shore when we analyzed it, not where
7 the tie-in facility would be.

8 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: Then it could be less
9 than seven miles.

10 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: It would be less,
11 but when we measured it, because we had resource
12 evaluation do all these range models from different points
13 in the reservoir, and everywhere they looked at it wasn't
14 technically feasible. So we have 15 pages written up in
15 the memo.

16 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: What I'm hearing is you
17 could tap into some of the reservoir but not all of it
18 through that ultra extended reach-in drilling?

19 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: It would make it
20 completely infeasible. Like you wouldn't get enough
21 production back for the project to continue. That's
22 something you have to look at is you still have to
23 maintain the project in a reasonable manner, and that it
24 was so far beyond what has been done so far, they wouldn't
25 be able to do it.

1 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: It's not, because it's
2 in the seven-mile range.

3 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: Lois, I wrote the
4 document a year ago, so I'm going off of memory. I'm
5 sorry.

6 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: That clarifies things.

7 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: We spent about six
8 months going back and forth about it and really taking a
9 hard look at it. And that will be in the record for the
10 administrative record. When we put together a whole
11 review of how we got to the decision point, that's in that
12 whole --

13 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: So we could review
14 that?

15 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: You could. You are
16 welcome to FOIA it. It's not proprietary.

17 DR. JAMES KENDALL: We can have more
18 discussion after, but let's stick with the process for
19 now.

20 Our first testimony comes from Mr. Joe Leavitt. Joe,
21 I think you are the first one up.

22 MR. JOE LEAVITT: Can you get all this
23 done first, and I'll just make my comments at the end?

24 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Okay.

25 MR. JOE LEAVITT: I've got some questions,

1 but I'd rather go through all the slide shows and --

2 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Well, the presentation
3 is over.

4 MR. JOE LEAVITT: It's over right now?

5 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Yeah. That was the
6 end of it.

7 MR. JOE LEAVITT: I thought you had a lot
8 more.

9 DR. JAMES KENDALL: We have the document,
10 800 pages, and if we have too many slides we don't --

11 MR. JOE LEAVITT: I'll stand up here.

12 DR. JAMES KENDALL: All right. Thank you.

13 MR. JOE LEAVITT: Good evening. And my
14 name is Joe Leavitt. I'm an alternate commissioner for
15 AEWC in Barrow, and I'd like to welcome all of you to
16 Barrow. And my name is Joe Mello Leavitt. I am the
17 Deputy Commissioner to the Alaska Whaling Commission from
18 Barrow. I'm making comments on behalf of AEWC.

19 First I'd like to thank representatives of BOEM and
20 EPA for coming here to listen to our comments and
21 concerns.

22 As you all know, our subsistence livelihood and our
23 cultural and nutritional security depend very heavily on
24 the resources of the ocean, especially the bowhead whale
25 resources. For more than 30 years the AEWC has worked

1 with offshore oil and gas companies to coordinate their
2 Beaufort Sea activities with the fall whale migration and
3 subsistence harvest. We do this through the annual Open
4 Water Season Conflict Avoidance Agreement process.

5 We are very grateful for the financial opportunities
6 that oil and gas development has brought to the North
7 Slope and to our AEWC villages, but these financial
8 opportunities could never replace our critical bowhead
9 whale and other subsistence resources. So we always look
10 carefully at development plans and try to help the
11 developers make sure that their work does not interfere
12 with our bowhead whale harvest or harm our bowhead whale
13 habitat.

14 As companies have started looking more closely at the
15 Beaufort Sea in recent years, the AEWC has looked at
16 extending this our collaborative work from the CAA to a
17 newer project that is being called the Camden Bay
18 Initiative. The AEWC and the North Slope Borough
19 Department of Wildlife Management first started this
20 project working with Shell from their planned development
21 at Sivulliq.

22 The AEWC and wildlife management are now working to
23 extend the Camden Bay Initiative beyond Camden Bay to the
24 whole mid Beaufort Sea region. Our goal is to have
25 companies work with hunters and scientists to apply what

1 we know from hunter experience and from past research on
2 development impacts in the Beaufort Sea. This way we
3 hunters and our scientists can have a seat at the table to
4 make sure the project design and implementations fit with
5 our knowledge of bowhead whale behavior.

6 I'm telling you these collaborative projects up front
7 to give you an idea of how we have learned to approach
8 development impacts and mitigation.

9 Now, looking at Hilcorp's proposed Liberty
10 development project, I want to start off with a negative
11 comment so we can get that out of the way. The AEWG and
12 North Slope Borough asked for an extension of the public
13 comment period for BOEM's Draft Environmental Impact
14 Statement. We are very disappointed those requests were
15 denied, and we make another request that our communities
16 be given an extension of time to comment on this project.

17 Our collaborative approaches to development need a
18 good understanding of technical details of each project
19 and take time for comparing those details with what we
20 know from our existing knowledge. This way we can make
21 the most informed and valuable contributions to the
22 decision on mitigation.

23 We very much appreciate that Hilcorp has come to our
24 AEWG meetings with information on the project and some
25 project details, but we still need time for technical

1 review and comment. Your schedule is not allowing us
2 enough opportunity to fully participate in this process in
3 a meaningful way. You have come to Barrow only six weeks
4 after publishing the DEIS and right in the middle of our
5 fall whaling.

6 The experts we rely on are already overextended on
7 other issues and deadlines, as they informed you in the
8 letters requesting the extension. The lack of regard for
9 our efforts to work as positive participants in this
10 process is very disappointing to us. Again, we renew our
11 request for a 30-day extension on the DEIS comment period.

12 Now I will turn to the comments we have been able to
13 pull together for this meeting.

14 First I want to express the AEWC's appreciation for
15 Hilcorp's participation in the CAA process and for
16 Hilcorp's decision to undertake island construction during
17 the winter months. This reduces the possibility of
18 adverse impacts to our whaling. Thank you for that.

19 However, since any adverse impacts on the project are
20 borne by our communities, we would like to know why the
21 island is not being located in the state of Alaska waters
22 so we could gain the benefit of support of our North Slope
23 Borough tax base. If the final design leaves the island
24 in federal waters, we request that Hilcorp and BOEM work
25 with us to establish a shared revenue agreement for this

1 project.

2 We also appreciate the decision to operate the
3 production project from an island using a disposal well
4 for waste discharges. On this point we have one question
5 and one comment. Will all drilling waste be injected into
6 the disposal well? If not, how will it be handled? We
7 understand the plan calls for an ongoing waste stream from
8 the sea water treatment plant that will include high
9 concentration brine. We would like to see this waste
10 stream injected into the disposal well. Also, the current
11 plan would increase saline concentrations in the discharge
12 area, possibly affecting bowhead whale prey and other
13 resources.

14 If there is a reason that the brine cannot be
15 injected into the disposal well, then we would need to
16 have baseline studies of salinity levels in the discharge
17 area. We also will need to see ongoing monitoring of
18 salinity levels if the brine is released. And we will
19 need to see a cumulative impact study combining this waste
20 stream with others that already exist. The AEWG requests
21 that the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife
22 Management be involved in designing these studies.

23 This area of the Beaufort Sea is rich in marine
24 mammals that help to feed our families. Therefore, every
25 precaution must be taken to make sure that we do not put

1 things in the water that would cause harm to the whales or
2 other resources or that would cause our whales to deflect
3 away from the usual migration routes. From Liberty, this
4 is especially important for Nuiqsut and Barrow.

5 Finally, I mentioned the Camden Bay Initiative. Our
6 Barrow, Nuiqsut and Kaktovik hunters have generations of
7 experience with the bowhead whale and the Beaufort Sea
8 ecosystem, and our scientists have volumes of research on
9 development impacts to bowhead whales in this area. We
10 need to bring our hunters and scientists to the table with
11 Hilcorp and the agencies to look at the project design
12 from the perspective of our experiments and the scientific
13 research that exists. The lessons that have been learned
14 at Northstar will be important.

15 So I will just give a little summary of my points on
16 behalf of AEWC. We appreciate Hilcorp's participation in
17 the CAA and the meetings that they have held with the AEWC
18 so far. We need additional time to fully review the
19 technical material to this project. We submit that
20 request again at this hearing. If it can't be granted,
21 the AEWC would like a letter explaining why.

22 We appreciate Hilcorp's decision to build during the
23 winter and to produce from an island, but we would like to
24 see the island move to the state waters. If it cannot be
25 moved, we need revenue sharing -- we need a revenue

1 sharing agreement. We would like to see the wastewater
2 streams including the brine from the seawater treatment
3 plant injected into disposal wells. If this cannot be
4 done, the AEWC wants the North Slope Borough Department of
5 Wildlife to participate in designing monitoring plans
6 funded by Hilcorp.

7 We strongly encourage Hilcorp to work with AEWC and
8 our affected communities on project details through the
9 Camden Bay Initiative. We hope to have BOEM support for
10 this request.

11 That completes the AEWC's comments for this hearing,
12 and we will try to prepare written comments on the Draft
13 Environmental Impact Statement, hopefully with additional
14 time from BOEM. Thank you.

15 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you very much,
16 Joe. Can we have the copy of the notes? Okay.

17 Our next speaker is Lloyd -- I'm going to let you,
18 Lloyd, pronounce your last name so I do not mess it up.

19 MR. LLOYD PANINGONA: Okay. In my Inupiat
20 pronunciation it's Paningona [pronunciation], but I don't
21 expect you to pronounce it. Otherwise it's spelled
22 Paningona.

23 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Okay. Well, I said it
24 right, then; I wasn't taking chances.

25 MR. LLOYD PANINGONA: Thank you very much

1 for coming into town presenting the EIS draft proposal.
2 And first of all, I'd like to thank Joe Leavitt for coming
3 and speaking on behalf of the organization that he is
4 with. And as you all know, today is -- I'm sure you guys
5 heard this several times. Three whales have been
6 harvested.

7 And I went through the pamphlet, and one of the
8 things that I would like to recommend -- the comment
9 period is going to end November 17. Considering the
10 timing that's going on with this community, I would highly
11 recommend that perhaps you guys do another revisit which
12 would allow more local residents to come and speak and
13 express their concerns and opinions.

14 That's all I have for now.

15 Aubie Gregg should be here in just a moment. She did
16 sign up to mention something. She's with ICAS natural
17 resources, as well.

18 DR. JAMES KENDALL: She was our next
19 speaker. So we will ask if someone else would like to
20 speak. Okay. Until Aubie gets here, anyone else would
21 like to make a public comment? The floor is open. Here
22 is the microphone.

23 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: I just have an edit
24 to my comments to Lois earlier. So when we were talking
25 about it, it's not the surface location; it's the

1 hypotenuse of that triangle that we are talking about.
2 Does that make sense? Just as a clarification, I thought
3 I would mention that to you.

4 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: Okay. Thank you.

5 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Again, we have an open
6 mic and an open floor. And we had some new folks come in.
7 And they are welcome to make a statement on the Draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Liberty
9 development. If that's the case, until Aubie gets back,
10 we can take a ten-minute break and get goodies and come
11 back. Hopefully she will be back with some more comments.
12 How is that? Ten-minute break starting now.

13 (A break was taken.)

14 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Our next speaker,
15 Aubie, is in the room, but as it turns out, her comments
16 have already been made by Joe. But I was speaking with
17 Joe at the break, and he had some excellent comments that
18 I asked him if he would come back to the microphone and
19 not just tell me, but to tell everybody and have it for
20 the record.

21 And also I failed to introduce another BOEM person,
22 you know. John Callahan right here, the public affairs
23 officer. I apologize. He's taking pictures.

24 So with that, Joe, welcome back to the podium.

25 MR. JOE LEAVITT: Thank you. Thank you.

1 I was just -- I wanted to speak up on putting the island
2 in the state waters. That way it would be closer to the
3 shore, and also it would -- it would -- there would be
4 less impact on the whale migration because in 1988 in our
5 whaling grounds there was a seismic company doing seismic
6 right on our whaling grounds, and that year we found the
7 whales 40 miles out because whales are deflected by all
8 this industry sound.

9 And then last year we had Quintillion out there
10 laying down their -- laying down their fiberoptic cable.
11 Last year the whales were taken 50 miles out. And you
12 know, that is impact on the whales and that really -- it's
13 really scary when you are 50 miles out up here in the
14 waters. Very scary in a small boat. And that's -- the
15 whales are highly impacted by the sound the drilling
16 companies make, and even ships will deflect the whale
17 migration.

18 And if the -- if it's put in the state waters, it's
19 closer to shore, and less impact will probably be for the
20 whales. That would be less impact on the whales'
21 migration.

22 Okay. That's -- that's all the comment I want to
23 say.

24 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you, Joe.

25 MS. HEATHER MARKWAY: How far are they

1 normally out?

2 MR. JOE LEAVITT: Today the whales were --
3 first whale I heard about was seven miles. And usually
4 right after the whaling season closes, you will start
5 seeing them right off the beach. They seem to figure out
6 that there is no more whaling. And the people always tell
7 us the whales know the person so, you know, that's a
8 way -- that's the way we look at it, anyway. We have
9 caught them closer than a mile right off the beach right
10 from Barrow and, you know, that's without any -- any
11 noise. And we believe that the whales are impacted a lot
12 by the sound. Okay. Thank you.

13 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you, Joe.
14 Appreciate it. Again, we are scheduled to be here till
15 10:00. We have great stamina. I have a microphone. The
16 floor is open if anyone would like to make official
17 comments for the record. This is a public hearing on the
18 EIS.

19 Again, as I said at the beginning, this is not just
20 our document. It's everybody's document. It's not a
21 decision document. It's informational for the
22 decisionmaker. So the better document we make, the more
23 information and the clearer it is for the decisionmaker.
24 So anybody else would like to make a comment?

25 Okay. I hate to take these breaks all the time. Why

1 don't we just reconvene at 8:00, if anybody has anything
2 else to say. I don't want to hold people here longer than
3 they need to be. There is a great thing happened today
4 with the whales. I know people might want to get down
5 there and see that or participate, but we really want to
6 get as much information and public comment as we can.
7 Okay. Then we are going to stop till 8:00. And we will
8 be here until 10:00, if necessary. Thank you.

9 (A break was taken.)

10 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Okay. Everybody, I
11 said we would reconvene at 8:00. We are just going to
12 hang out here for the rest of the evening. If anybody has
13 something to say officially for the record, we will make
14 the microphone available. And Aubie, if you know anybody
15 off the street who wants to come, we are not going
16 anywhere.

17 (A break was taken.)

18 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Okay. We are now on
19 record, and the time is 8:48 p.m. We are now officially
20 closing the public hearing in Barrow, Alaska.

21 (Proceedings adjourned at 8:48 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that the proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later transcribed under my direction by computer transcription; that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken at that time; and that I am not a party to nor have I any interest in the outcome of the action herein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my hand and affixed my seal this _____ day of October 2017.

MARY A. VAVRIK,
Registered Merit Reporter
Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2020

[allow (1) 24:12	9:15	better (2) 4:20;27:22	3:5,14;4:4;5:8,25; 6:25
[pronunciation] (1) 23:20	allowances (1) 8:23 allowing (1) 20:1	assumed (1) 10:9 attendance (1) 11:24 Aubie (5) 24:15,20;25:9,15; 28:14	beyond (3) 14:8;15:24;18:23 big (1) 14:15	button (1) 11:20
A	alternate (9) 8:12;9:5,6,11,13; 10:5,12,18;17:14	available (3) 11:12,22;28:14	birds (1) 10:14	C
able (2) 15:25;20:12	Alternative (11) 8:24;9:2,3,6,9,21, 25;10:5,6,8;14:3	avoid (1) 9:10	bit (1) 4:13	CAA (3) 18:16;20:15;22:17
absolute (1) 3:23	alternatives (6) 8:15,20;9:4;11:1,6, 10	Avoidance (1) 18:4	blissing (3) 3:9,22,24	cable (1) 26:10
accepted (1) 8:4	always (2) 18:9;27:6	away (2) 6:22;22:3	boat (1) 26:14	Callahan (1) 25:22
Act (1) 9:1	analyses (1) 10:21	B	BOEM (19) 4:3,5,25;8:4,6,18, 20;9:10,20;10:9,12, 16,20;11:24;17:19; 20:24;23:9,14;25:21	called (1) 18:17
action (10) 7:11;8:15,21,25; 9:1,25;10:4;11:6,7,10	analysis (5) 8:15;9:1;10:19; 11:9,15	back (13) 4:1,20;5:13;11:22; 12:18,20;15:21;16:8; 25:9,11,11,18,24	BOEM-2015-0068-0164 (1) 11:19	calls (1) 21:7
activities (2) 9:15;18:2	analyze (2) 10:5,12	Badami (1) 7:20	BOEM's (1) 19:13	Camden (5) 18:17,23,23;22:5; 23:9
actually (2) 5:5;13:2	analyzed (4) 8:20;14:3,6;15:6	Barrow (11) 3:20;4:1;5:11; 17:15,16,18;20:3; 22:4,6;27:10;28:20	Boldrick (17) 4:23;6:23;12:21,24; 13:6,15,18,22,25; 14:25;15:5,10,19; 16:3,7,15;24:23	came (2) 5:11;12:5
add (1) 11:20	analyzes (3) 10:6,8,25	base (1) 20:23	borne (1) 20:20	can (15) 4:8,20,22;6:14; 12:10,14,18;16:17,22; 19:3,11,20;23:16; 25:10;28:6
addition (2) 8:25;9:13	Anchorage (1) 3:6	based (2) 9:19;10:17	Borough (6) 6:4;18:18;19:12; 20:23;21:21;23:4	captains (1) 4:2
additional (5) 8:15;11:12,14; 22:18;23:13	and/or (1) 9:16	baseline (1) 21:16	boss (1) 3:8	carefully (1) 18:10
adjourned (1) 28:21	annual (1) 18:3	basically (1) 13:21	Both (1) 14:7	case (3) 11:2;13:14;25:9
administrative (1) 16:10	apologize (1) 25:23	Bay (5) 18:17,23,23;22:5; 23:9	bother (1) 5:16	caught (1) 27:9
adverse (2) 20:18,19	apply (1) 18:25	beach (2) 27:5,9	boulder (6) 8:11;9:10,14,17,24; 10:3	cause (2) 22:1,2
AEWC (15) 17:15,18,25;18:7, 15,18,22;19:11,24; 21:20;22:16,17,21; 23:4,7	appreciate (5) 19:23;21:2;22:16, 22;27:14	beforehand (1) 4:22	bowhead (8) 17:24;18:8,12,12; 19:5;21:12;22:7,9	chances (1) 23:24
AEWC's (2) 20:14;23:11	appreciation (1) 20:14	begin (1) 3:3	break (6) 25:10,12,13,17; 28:9,17	charge (1) 5:5
affairs (1) 25:22	approach (1) 19:7	beginning (1) 27:19	breaks (1) 27:25	clarification (1) 25:2
affected (1) 23:8	approaches (1) 19:17	behalf (3) 17:18;22:16;24:3	brine (4) 21:9,14,18;23:2	clarifies (1) 16:6
affecting (1) 21:12	Arctic (2) 6:5;8:10	behavior (1) 19:5	bring (3) 6:21;12:20;22:10	clearer (1) 27:23
Again (5) 20:10;22:20;25:5; 27:14,19	area (6) 4:12;11:7;21:12,17, 23;22:9	behind (1) 4:23	broker (1) 4:8	Click (1) 11:19
agencies (3) 5:15;10:23;22:11	areas (3) 9:17,24;10:3	below (1) 14:12	brought (2) 5:15;18:6	closely (1) 18:14
agency (2) 4:6;8:23	Army (1) 5:22	benefit (1) 20:22	BSEE (2) 5:25;14:2	close (2) 11:21;27:4
ago (1) 16:4	artificial (1) 7:18	best (2) 4:8;8:22	build (1) 22:22	closing (1) 28:20
Agreement (3) 18:4;20:25;23:1	ashore (1) 10:11		Bureau (6)	coast (1) 14:24
Alaska (7) 3:7;4:4,6;10:1; 17:17;20:21;28:20	assessment (1) 14:1			collaborative (3) 18:16;19:6,17
	associated (1)			combining (1)

<p>21:19 coming (4) 5:13;17:20;24:1,2 comment (17) 9:19;11:18,20,21, 21,23;19:11,13,16; 20:1,11;21:5;24:8,21; 26:22;27:24;28:6 Commenters (1) 8:11 comments (19) 8:4,7,14;9:5,8; 10:12;11:14,16; 16:23;17:18,20; 20:12;23:11,12; 24:24;25:11,15,17; 27:17 commercial (1) 7:13 Commission (1) 17:17 commissioner (2) 17:14,17 Communities (5) 6:5;9:10;19:15; 20:20;23:8 community (4) 3:4;5:7,8;24:10 companies (4) 18:1,14,25;26:16 company (2) 4:5;26:5 compare (1) 13:23 compared (2) 9:24;10:3 comparing (1) 19:19 completely (1) 15:20 completes (1) 23:11 components (1) 9:16 computers (1) 11:22 concentration (1) 21:9 concentrations (1) 21:11 concerns (4) 8:7,14;17:21;24:13 conducted (1) 10:16 Conflict (1) 18:4 congratulations (1) 4:1 considered (3) 11:10,15,16 Considering (1) 24:9 considers (1)</p>	<p>11:5 constitutes (1) 8:24 construction (5) 7:22;8:1,1;9:15; 20:16 consultation (1) 10:24 Continental (1) 7:17 continue (2) 7:20;15:21 contributions (1) 19:21 cooperating (3) 8:18,23;10:23 cooperation (1) 7:1 coordinate (1) 18:1 copy (1) 23:16 corner (1) 11:20 Corps (1) 5:22 court (1) 4:18 covers (1) 7:3 critical (1) 18:8 cultural (1) 17:23 cumulative (1) 21:19 current (1) 21:10</p>	<p>26:7 DEIS (2) 20:4,11 denied (1) 19:15 densest (3) 9:17,24;10:3 Department (4) 3:6;18:19;21:21; 23:4 depend (1) 17:23 depending (1) 11:8 Deputy (1) 17:17 described (2) 7:15;8:21 design (3) 19:4;20:23;22:11 designing (2) 21:22;23:5 detailed (1) 7:7 details (4) 19:18,19,25;23:8 develop (1) 8:14 developed (2) 9:4,20 developers (1) 18:11 developing (1) 4:12 development (16) 7:11,16,16,21,24, 25;8:19;18:6,10,20; 19:2,8,10,17;22:9; 25:9 different (2) 15:1,12 Director (2) 3:14;4:3 disappointed (2) 3:18;19:14 disappointing (1) 20:10 discharge (2) 21:11,16 discharges (1) 21:4 disclosing (1) 11:1 discussion (1) 16:18 displays (1) 7:2 disposal (5) 21:3,6,10,15;23:3 distance (4) 12:23;13:3,5;15:4 document (18) 5:6,20,23;6:2,6,10,</p>	<p>10,11,12,14;11:19; 13:11;16:4;17:9; 27:20,20,21,22 done (5) 6:11;14:9;15:24; 16:23;23:4 down (3) 26:10,10;28:4 Dr (25) 3:13,16,23;12:1,9, 13,19;13:5,8,13; 16:17,24;17:2,5,9,12; 23:15,23;24:18;25:5, 14;26:24;27:13; 28:10,18 Draft (19) 4:10;5:6;7:3;8:4,16, 19,20;9:3;10:9,20,25; 11:3,5,15;14:4;19:13; 23:12;24:1;25:7 Drilling (10) 7:8,17;8:2;10:7; 13:10;14:6,17;15:18; 21:5;26:15 during (3) 8:5;20:16;22:22</p>	<p>5:22 enough (3) 3:9;15:20;20:2 environment (2) 5:2;8:10 Environmental (10) 4:10,21;5:2;6:1; 7:3;9:1;11:3;19:13; 23:13;25:8 EPA (4) 5:18,20;14:2;17:20 EPSTEIN (17) 12:7,11,17,22;13:1, 9,16,20,23;14:22; 15:3,8,16;16:1,6,13; 25:4 Erin (1) 5:18 especially (2) 17:24;22:4 establish (1) 20:25 evaluation (2) 14:14;15:12 even (1) 26:16 evening (3) 3:2;17:13;28:12 everybody (5) 3:3;6:16,17;25:19; 28:10 everybody's (2) 6:11;27:20 everyone (1) 6:23 everywhere (1) 15:13 excellent (1) 25:17 exist (1) 21:20 existing (3) 10:7,16;19:20 exists (1) 22:13 expect (1) 23:21 experience (2) 19:1;22:7 experiments (1) 22:12 experts (1) 20:6 explaining (1) 22:21 express (2) 20:14;24:13 extend (1) 18:23 extended (2) 13:10;15:18 extending (1) 18:16</p>
	D		E	
	<p>day (1) 3:20 deadlines (1) 20:7 decide (1) 12:4 decided (1) 14:20 decision (8) 6:13,16;16:11; 19:22;20:16;21:2; 22:22;27:21 decisionmaker (5) 6:12,15;11:4;27:22, 23 decisionmakers (1) 11:2 decrease (3) 14:13,19;15:2 deflect (2) 22:2;26:16 deflected (1)</p>	<p>earlier (2) 8:21;24:24 east (1) 9:22 ecosystem (2) 8:11;22:8 edit (1) 24:23 effort (1) 6:17 efforts (1) 20:9 eight (1) 7:8 EIS (14) 8:4,16,19,20;9:3; 10:9,20,25;11:5,15, 18;14:4;24:1;27:18 else (4) 24:19,20;27:24; 28:2 encourage (1) 23:7 end (3) 16:23;17:6;24:9 endangered (1) 8:9 Endicott (3) 7:8;10:7;14:6 Energy (4) 3:5,14;4:4;6:25 Enforcement (1) 6:1 Engineers (1)</p>		

extension (4) 19:12,16;20:8,11	folks (1) 25:6	3:2,4,12;5:6	23:13;25:11	7:13
extra (1) 5:10	follows (1) 4:25	handled (1) 21:6	hums (1) 4:25	Initiative (4) 18:18,23;22:5;23:9
extremely (1) 11:11	forth (1) 16:8	hang (1) 28:12	hunter (1) 19:1	injected (4) 21:5,10,15;23:3
F	found (1) 26:6	Hanh (1) 5:18	hunters (4) 18:25;19:3;22:6,10	input (1) 6:4
facility (7) 7:18;10:7,9,10; 13:3;15:4,7	Four (2) 3:22;10:20	happened (1) 28:3	hydrocarbon (2) 7:14;8:2	intent (1) 11:1
factors (2) 14:11,16	Fran (3) 5:4,4,4	hard (1) 16:9	hypotenuse (1) 25:1	interfere (1) 18:11
failed (1) 25:21	front (2) 6:15;19:6	harm (2) 18:12;22:1	I	Interior (2) 3:6;11:4
fall (2) 18:2;20:5	fully (2) 20:2;22:18	harvest (2) 18:3,12	ICAS (2) 6:7;24:16	into (7) 10:1;15:17;21:5,10, 15;23:3;24:1
families (1) 21:24	funded (1) 23:6	harvested (1) 24:6	ice (2) 7:23;8:1	introduce (4) 3:8,13;4:14;25:21
far (6) 3:22;9:16;15:24,24; 22:18;26:25	further (2) 9:23;10:2	hate (1) 27:25	idea (1) 19:7	Inupiat (2) 6:5;23:19
feasibility (2) 9:12;14:1	G	hear (2) 4:13,22	identified (1) 10:18	Invocation (1) 3:11
feasible (1) 15:14	gain (1) 20:22	heard (3) 5:11;24:5;27:3	identify (1) 9:11	involved (1) 21:22
federal (4) 4:6;5:12;8:17; 20:24	gas (3) 8:13;18:1,6	hearing (8) 4:9,18;12:9;15:16; 22:20;23:11;27:17; 28:20	Impact (12) 4:10,21;7:4;11:3; 19:13;21:19;23:13; 25:8;26:4,12,19,20	island (25) 7:5,7,9,19;8:2,13; 9:5,9,11,16,21,23,25; 10:2,7;13:4,18;14:20; 20:16,21,23;21:3; 22:23,24;26:1
feed (1) 21:24	generations (1) 22:6	Heather (3) 5:21,21;26:25	impacted (2) 26:15;27:11	issues (2) 11:15;20:7
feet (1) 13:12	gets (2) 24:20;25:9	heavily (1) 17:23	impacts (15) 8:8,10;9:10,14; 10:14,25;11:1,6,7,11; 19:2,8;20:18,19;22:9	J
few (1) 12:14	given (1) 19:16	held (1) 22:17	implementations (1) 19:4	James (25) 3:13,16,23;12:1,9, 13,19;13:5,8,13; 16:17,24;17:2,5,9,12; 23:15,23;24:18;25:5, 14;26:24;27:13; 28:10,18
fiberoptic (1) 26:10	goal (1) 18:24	help (4) 6:9,14;18:10;21:24	important (5) 3:24,25;4:17;22:4, 14	Jim (1) 3:15
figure (1) 27:5	Good (4) 3:2;6:14;17:13; 19:18	helped (1) 6:5	include (2) 7:21;21:8	job (1) 5:9
final (3) 11:17;14:22;20:23	goodies (1) 25:10	helpful (1) 11:16	included (2) 8:7;10:21	JOE (20) 3:21;16:20,20,22, 25;17:4,7,11,13,14, 16;23:16;24:2;25:16, 17,24,25;26:24;27:2, 13
Finally (1) 22:5	governments (1) 8:18	helping (3) 5:20,22;6:1	includes (1) 7:24	John (1) 25:22
financial (2) 18:5,7	granted (1) 22:20	Hi (1) 6:23	including (3) 5:3;8:21;23:2	joining (1) 6:24
fine (1) 13:1	grateful (1) 18:5	hiding (1) 5:19	increase (1) 21:11	K
First (12) 4:4,14,17;5:8; 16:20,21,23;17:19; 18:19;20:14;24:2; 27:3	gravel (6) 7:18,21,25;8:2,12; 9:6	high (1) 21:8	industry (1) 26:8	Kadleroshilik (1) 10:13
fish (1) 10:14	great (4) 5:9;6:7;27:15;28:3	highly (2) 24:10;26:15	infeasible (2) 14:21;15:20	Kaktovik (2) 7:6;22:6
fit (1) 19:4	Gregg (1) 24:15	Hilcorp (9) 4:11;7:13;9:11,20; 19:23;20:24;22:11; 23:6,7	inform (2) 8:15;11:17	
five (2) 7:24;8:20	grounds (2) 26:5,6	Hilcorp's (8) 7:10;8:21;9:2;19:9; 20:15,16;22:16,22	information (6) 10:17;11:12,14; 19:24;27:23;28:6	
floor (3) 24:21;25:6;27:16	guys (2) 24:4,11	hold (1) 28:2	informational (1) 27:21	
FOIA (1) 16:16	H	honest (1) 4:8	informed (2) 19:21;20:7	
	habitat (2) 9:17;18:13	hope (1) 23:9	initiate (1)	
	HALLER (4)	hopefully (2)		

<p>keep (1) 5:12 Kendall (25) 3:13,16,23;12:1,9, 13,19;13:5,8,13; 16:17,24;17:2,5,9,12; 23:15,23;24:18;25:5, 14;26:24;27:13; 28:10,18 Kevin (2) 5:24,25 kind (2) 3:9;14:18 knowledge (2) 19:5,20 known (1) 9:17</p>	<p>3:4;5:7,8 Liberty (16) 4:12;7:2,5,7,11,14, 15,16,21,24;11:3; 13:4;14:12;19:9;22:3; 25:8 light (1) 3:25 line (2) 14:16,16 listen (1) 17:20 little (4) 3:18;4:13;6:20; 22:15 livelihood (1) 17:22 Lloyd (5) 6:6;23:17,18,19,25 local (2) 8:18;24:12 locate (1) 9:25 located (2) 7:18;20:21 location (5) 7:5;9:6;10:13;14:7; 24:25 locations (8) 8:12;9:6,7,12,13; 10:6,18;14:8 Lois (20) 12:6,7,11,17,22; 13:1,9,16,20,23; 14:22;15:3,8,16;16:1, 3,6,13;24:24;25:4 long (1) 14:5 longer (1) 28:2 look (5) 15:22;16:9;18:9; 22:11;27:8 looked (5) 13:10;14:25;15:6, 13;18:15 looking (3) 14:19;18:14;19:9 lot (4) 4:16;6:8;17:7; 27:11 loud (1) 3:17</p>	<p>17:18 mammals (2) 8:8;21:24 Management (9) 3:5,15;4:5,7;6:25; 8:22;18:19,22;21:22 manager (1) 4:24 manmade (1) 8:1 Mann (2) 5:4,4 manner (1) 15:23 many (7) 3:19;5:11,12,16; 6:8;8:17;17:10 map (4) 7:4,7;12:20,25 maps (1) 12:18 March (1) 8:6 marine (2) 8:8;21:23 Mark (2) 5:1,1 Markway (2) 5:21;26:25 Mary (2) 4:17,19 material (1) 22:19 materials (1) 11:13 math (1) 13:21 meaning (1) 9:2 meaningful (1) 20:3 measured (1) 15:11 measures (6) 8:23,24;10:21,22, 24;11:5 meeting (1) 20:13 meetings (5) 5:12,13,17;19:24; 22:17 Mello (1) 17:16 memo (1) 15:15 memory (1) 16:4 mention (2) 24:16;25:3 mentioned (1) 22:5 mess (1) 23:18</p>	<p>met (1) 5:7 mic (1) 25:6 MICHAEL (3) 3:2,4,12 microphone (4) 24:22;25:18;27:15; 28:14 mid (1) 18:24 middle (1) 20:4 might (1) 28:4 migration (5) 18:2;22:3;26:4,17, 21 migratory (1) 10:14 Mike (3) 4:3;5:6,9 mile (6) 9:22,23;14:8,12,23; 27:9 miles (13) 7:5,6,8,20;10:1,2; 13:6;14:23;15:9;26:7, 11,13;27:3 mind (1) 3:24 mine (4) 7:22,25;9:6;10:13 minimize (3) 9:14;10:14;11:6 mitigation (5) 8:24;10:20;11:5; 19:8,22 models (2) 14:14;15:12 moment (1) 24:15 monitoring (2) 21:17;23:5 months (2) 16:8;20:17 more (12) 4:13;7:6;15:2,2; 16:17;17:8,25;18:14; 24:12;25:11;27:6,22 most (1) 19:21 move (2) 9:16;22:24 moved (1) 22:25 much (7) 4:2;14:17,19;19:23; 23:15,25;28:6 mud (1) 14:17 must (1) 21:25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>name (5) 3:3;4:22;17:14,16; 23:18 Nancy (3) 3:8,11,12 National (1) 8:25 natural (1) 24:16 necessary (1) 28:8 need (13) 3:16;14:12,19; 19:17,25;21:15,17,19; 22:10,18,25,25;28:3 negative (1) 19:10 negligible (1) 11:8 new (5) 7:21,25;10:8,10; 25:6 newer (1) 18:17 next (5) 13:2,2;23:17;24:18; 25:14 night (2) 5:13,13 nine (2) 14:10,10 noise (1) 27:11 normal (1) 8:22 normally (2) 3:17;27:1 North (7) 6:4;18:6,18;19:12; 20:22;21:21;23:4 Northstar (1) 22:14 note (1) 11:15 notes (1) 23:16 November (2) 11:21;24:9 Nuiqsut (3) 7:6;22:4,6 nutritional (1) 17:23</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>lack (1) 20:8 land (1) 7:20 large (4) 7:4;11:9,11;12:24 last (3) 23:18;26:9,11 lasted (1) 8:5 late (1) 7:2 later (1) 4:13 Lauren (23) 4:23,23;6:20,22,23; 12:2,17,19,21,24; 13:6,15,18,22,25; 14:25;15:5,10,19; 16:3,7,15;24:23 laying (2) 26:10,10 learned (2) 19:7;22:13 lease (1) 10:21 leaves (1) 20:23 Leavitt (15) 3:9,11,21;16:20,22, 25;17:4,7,11,13,14, 16;24:2;25:25;27:2 less (5) 15:8,10;26:4,19,20 lessons (1) 22:13 letter (1) 22:21 letters (1) 20:8 levels (2) 21:16,18 liaison (3)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>maintain (2) 9:12;15:23 major (2) 11:8,12 makes (1) 4:25 making (1)</p>	<p>met (1) 5:7 mic (1) 25:6 MICHAEL (3) 3:2,4,12 microphone (4) 24:22;25:18;27:15; 28:14 mid (1) 18:24 middle (1) 20:4 might (1) 28:4 migration (5) 18:2;22:3;26:4,17, 21 migratory (1) 10:14 Mike (3) 4:3;5:6,9 mile (6) 9:22,23;14:8,12,23; 27:9 miles (13) 7:5,6,8,20;10:1,2; 13:6;14:23;15:9;26:7, 11,13;27:3 mind (1) 3:24 mine (4) 7:22,25;9:6;10:13 minimize (3) 9:14;10:14;11:6 mitigation (5) 8:24;10:20;11:5; 19:8,22 models (2) 14:14;15:12 moment (1) 24:15 monitoring (2) 21:17;23:5 months (2) 16:8;20:17 more (12) 4:13;7:6;15:2,2; 16:17;17:8,25;18:14; 24:12;25:11;27:6,22 most (1) 19:21 move (2) 9:16;22:24 moved (1) 22:25 much (7) 4:2;14:17,19;19:23; 23:15,25;28:6 mud (1) 14:17 must (1) 21:25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>occur (1) 9:3 Ocean (5) 3:5,14;4:4;6:25; 17:24</p>	

<p>off (5) 16:4;19:10;27:5,9; 28:15</p> <p>offer (1) 3:9</p> <p>offered (1) 3:11</p> <p>office (1) 4:24</p> <p>officer (1) 25:23</p> <p>official (1) 27:16</p> <p>officially (2) 28:13,19</p> <p>offshore (2) 7:23;18:1</p> <p>oil (7) 4:5;8:9,12;11:9,11; 18:1,6</p> <p>One (14) 5:10;9:22,23;12:18, 21,22;13:2,2;14:10, 22;16:21;21:4,5;24:7</p> <p>ongoing (2) 21:7,17</p> <p>only (1) 20:3</p> <p>onshore (6) 7:21,22,23;10:8,10; 14:7</p> <p>open (6) 12:4;18:3;24:21; 25:5,6;27:16</p> <p>operate (1) 21:2</p> <p>operator-committed (2) 8:22;10:22</p> <p>opinions (1) 24:13</p> <p>opportunities (2) 18:5,8</p> <p>opportunity (2) 12:7;20:2</p> <p>order (1) 9:9</p> <p>organization (1) 24:3</p> <p>others (2) 12:4;21:20</p> <p>Otherwise (1) 23:21</p> <p>out (10) 5:6;19:11;25:15; 26:7,9,11,13;27:1,5; 28:12</p> <p>Outer (1) 7:17</p> <p>over (7) 5:4,19;6:20;7:20; 8:7;17:3,4</p> <p>overextended (1) 20:6</p>	<p>oversees (1) 5:2</p> <p>overview (2) 7:4;12:25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>pad (1) 7:22</p> <p>page (1) 11:20</p> <p>pages (2) 15:14;17:10</p> <p>pamphlet (1) 24:7</p> <p>PANINGONA (4) 23:19,20,22,25</p> <p>part (3) 9:2;11:10;14:13</p> <p>participants (1) 20:9</p> <p>participate (3) 20:2;23:5;28:5</p> <p>participation (3) 11:25;20:15;22:16</p> <p>partner (1) 5:15</p> <p>partners (2) 5:14;6:3</p> <p>past (1) 19:1</p> <p>patch (6) 8:11;9:10,14,17,24; 10:3</p> <p>Pearson (1) 5:24</p> <p>Pendergast (1) 5:24</p> <p>people (11) 3:19;4:15;5:5,10, 12;6:8,13;12:8;27:6; 28:2,4</p> <p>percent (2) 12:15;14:15</p> <p>perhaps (1) 24:11</p> <p>period (5) 8:5;11:21;19:13; 20:11;24:9</p> <p>permit (1) 8:23</p> <p>person (3) 3:17;25:21;27:7</p> <p>perspective (1) 22:12</p> <p>pictures (1) 25:23</p> <p>pipeline (2) 7:19;10:10</p> <p>placing (1) 10:2</p> <p>plan (5) 7:12,16;12:13;21:7,</p>	<p>11</p> <p>planned (1) 18:20</p> <p>planning (1) 7:13</p> <p>plans (2) 18:10;23:5</p> <p>plant (2) 21:8;23:3</p> <p>plausible (1) 10:18</p> <p>player (1) 6:18</p> <p>please (2) 4:1,21</p> <p>pleasure (1) 3:13</p> <p>pm (2) 28:19,21</p> <p>podium (1) 25:24</p> <p>point (3) 7:20;16:11;21:4</p> <p>points (3) 15:1,12;22:15</p> <p>Policy (1) 9:1</p> <p>positive (1) 20:9</p> <p>possibility (2) 8:9;20:17</p> <p>possible (1) 9:11</p> <p>possibly (1) 21:12</p> <p>potential (1) 8:10</p> <p>practical (1) 9:18</p> <p>practices (1) 8:22</p> <p>precaution (1) 21:25</p> <p>preparation (1) 11:17</p> <p>prepare (2) 4:20;23:12</p> <p>presentation (4) 6:21;11:13;12:12; 17:2</p> <p>presenting (1) 24:1</p> <p>prey (1) 21:12</p> <p>probably (1) 26:19</p> <p>Proceedings (1) 28:21</p> <p>P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S (1) 3:1</p> <p>process (5) 16:18;18:4;20:2,10, 15</p>	<p>processing (5) 8:13;9:7;10:5,6,8</p> <p>produce (1) 22:23</p> <p>production (11) 7:12,14,16,18;8:2, 3;14:14,19;15:2,21; 21:3</p> <p>project (20) 4:24;7:2;9:13,16; 15:21,23;18:17,20; 19:4,10,16,18,24,25; 20:19;21:1,3;22:11, 19;23:8</p> <p>projects (1) 19:6</p> <p>project-specific (1) 10:24</p> <p>pronounce (2) 23:18,21</p> <p>pronunciation (1) 23:20</p> <p>proposal (3) 4:11;9:2;24:1</p> <p>proposed (13) 7:5,7,10,24;8:21, 25;9:25;10:4,11,13; 11:10;19:9;25:8</p> <p>proprietary (1) 16:16</p> <p>proud (1) 5:9</p> <p>provided (1) 11:13</p> <p>public (12) 4:9;8:5;9:8,19; 11:2;12:9;19:12; 24:21;25:22;27:17; 28:6,20</p> <p>publishing (1) 20:4</p> <p>pull (2) 12:18;20:13</p> <p>purpose (1) 10:9</p> <p>purposes (1) 10:15</p> <p>put (3) 16:10;21:25;26:18</p> <p>putting (1) 26:1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <p>Quintillion (1) 26:9</p> <p>quit (1) 6:19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>range (3) 11:7;15:12;16:2</p>	<p>rather (1) 17:1</p> <p>reach (1) 13:10</p> <p>reach-in (1) 15:18</p> <p>real (1) 3:24</p> <p>really (7) 4:16;6:17;12:13; 16:8;26:12,13;28:5</p> <p>reason (1) 21:14</p> <p>reasonable (1) 15:23</p> <p>received (2) 7:11;8:6</p> <p>recent (1) 18:15</p> <p>recently (1) 4:10</p> <p>recommend (2) 24:8,11</p> <p>reconvene (2) 28:1,11</p> <p>record (10) 12:10;13:12;14:9, 11;16:9,10;25:20; 27:17;28:13,19</p> <p>records (2) 14:4,17</p> <p>reduce (1) 9:10</p> <p>reduced (1) 14:23</p> <p>reduces (1) 20:17</p> <p>regard (1) 20:8</p> <p>Region (2) 3:7;18:24</p> <p>Regional (3) 3:14;4:3;5:1</p> <p>regulation (1) 4:7</p> <p>released (1) 21:18</p> <p>relocate (2) 9:9,21</p> <p>rely (1) 20:6</p> <p>remaining (1) 9:4</p> <p>remember (1) 14:10</p> <p>renew (1) 20:10</p> <p>replace (1) 18:8</p> <p>reporter (1) 4:18</p> <p>representation (1) 6:6</p>
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<p>representatives (1) 17:19 request (5) 19:15;20:11,24; 22:20;23:10 requesting (1) 20:8 requests (2) 19:14;21:20 requirements (1) 10:23 requires (1) 9:1 research (3) 19:1;22:8,13 reservoir (4) 7:14;15:1,13,17 residents (1) 24:12 resource (4) 4:7;11:8;14:14; 15:11 resources (9) 10:16;11:7;14:18; 17:24,25;18:9;21:13; 22:2;24:17 response (1) 9:8 responses (1) 9:20 rest (1) 28:12 result (2) 9:5,22 resulting (1) 10:23 revenue (3) 20:25;22:25,25 review (8) 10:16,18;14:2,5; 16:11,13;20:1;22:18 revisit (1) 24:11 rich (1) 21:23 rig (1) 14:18 Right (13) 5:19;14:24;15:6; 17:4,12;20:4;23:24; 25:22;26:6;27:4,5,9,9 River (1) 10:13 roads (2) 7:23;8:1 room (5) 5:10;6:8,17;11:22; 25:15 routes (1) 22:3 Russia (1) 13:19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <p>Safety (1) 6:1 Sakhalin (3) 13:18;14:8,9 saline (1) 21:11 salinity (2) 21:16,18 Satellite (2) 7:8;10:7 scary (2) 26:13,14 schedule (1) 20:1 scheduled (1) 27:14 science (1) 5:3 scientific (1) 22:12 scientists (4) 18:25;19:3;22:8,10 scope (1) 11:9 scoping (4) 8:4,5;9:5;10:12 SDI (1) 14:6 Sea (8) 4:12;18:2,15,24; 19:2;21:8,23;22:7 search (1) 11:19 Season (2) 18:4;27:4 seat (1) 19:3 seawater (1) 23:2 second (1) 14:13 Secretary (1) 11:4 security (1) 17:23 sedimentation (1) 9:15 seeing (1) 27:5 seem (1) 27:5 seismic (2) 26:5,5 self-contained (1) 7:17 sense (1) 25:2 September (1) 8:6 seven (3)</p>	<p>14:23;15:9;27:3 seven-mile (1) 16:2 several (3) 8:7;15:1;24:5 Seyfried (1) 5:19 shared (1) 20:25 sharing (2) 22:25;23:1 Shaw (1) 5:18 sheet (2) 12:2,3 Shelf (1) 7:17 Shell (1) 18:20 ships (1) 26:16 shore (5) 7:19;10:1;15:6; 26:3,19 shorter (1) 15:4 shown (1) 8:17 shows (5) 7:4,7,10;12:22;17:1 sign (1) 24:16 sign-in (2) 12:2,3 site (2) 9:22;10:14 Sivulliq (1) 18:21 six (2) 16:7;20:3 slide (4) 7:2,10;8:17;17:1 slides (1) 17:10 Slope (8) 6:4,5;18:7,18; 19:12;20:22;21:21; 23:4 small (1) 26:14 someone (1) 24:19 sorry (1) 16:5 sound (3) 26:8,15;27:12 sources (1) 8:12 speak (4) 12:8;24:12,20;26:1 speaker (3) 23:17;24:19;25:14 speakers (2)</p>	<p>12:2,3 speaking (2) 24:3;25:16 special (1) 3:20 species (1) 8:9 speed (1) 6:21 spelled (1) 23:21 spent (1) 16:7 spill (2) 11:9,12 spills (1) 8:10 stages (1) 7:25 stakeholders (1) 7:1 stamina (1) 27:15 stand (1) 17:11 start (2) 19:10;27:4 started (2) 18:14,19 starting (1) 25:12 State (9) 4:6,22;6:3;8:17; 10:1;20:21;22:24; 26:2,18 Statement (8) 4:10,21;7:4;11:3; 19:14;23:13;25:7,8 States (1) 3:6 Steve (2) 5:24,25 stick (1) 16:18 still (4) 14:8,11;15:22; 19:25 stipulations (1) 10:22 stop (1) 28:7 Storzer (2) 5:1,1 stream (3) 21:7,10,20 streams (1) 23:2 street (1) 28:15 strongly (1) 23:7 studies (2) 21:16,22</p>	<p>study (1) 21:19 subalternatives (1) 9:21 submit (1) 22:19 subsistence (5) 8:8;10:15;17:22; 18:3,9 substantive (1) 11:16 suggest (1) 11:14 suggested (3) 8:12;10:12;14:2 suggesting (1) 9:8 summary (2) 7:10;22:15 supervisor (2) 5:1,5 support (2) 20:22;23:9 sure (7) 4:21,25;12:15; 18:11;19:4;21:25; 24:4 surface (1) 24:25 survey (1) 10:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <hr/> <p>table (2) 19:3;22:10 talking (3) 6:19;24:24;25:1 tap (1) 15:17 tax (1) 20:23 team (3) 4:14;6:17,17 technical (6) 9:12;10:17;14:1; 19:18,25;22:19 technically (2) 14:20;15:14 telling (1) 19:6 ten-minute (2) 25:10,12 testimony (1) 16:20 Therefore (2) 9:19;21:24 thorough (1) 10:16 thought (2) 17:7;25:2 thousand (1) 8:7</p>
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<p>threatened (1) 8:9</p> <p>three (5) 3:20,21;9:4;10:18; 24:5</p> <p>tie-in (5) 7:20,22;13:3;15:4,7</p> <p>till (2) 27:14;28:7</p> <p>times (2) 5:11;24:5</p> <p>timing (1) 24:10</p> <p>today (7) 3:20,21;5:6;6:24; 24:4;27:2;28:3</p> <p>together (2) 16:10;20:13</p> <p>tonight (6) 3:3,10;4:9;11:13, 23,25</p> <p>top (1) 11:20</p> <p>total (1) 13:5</p> <p>town (1) 24:1</p> <p>treatment (2) 21:8;23:2</p> <p>triangle (1) 25:1</p> <p>tribal (3) 3:4;5:7,8</p> <p>try (3) 4:7;18:10;23:12</p> <p>turbidity (1) 9:14</p> <p>turn (2) 6:20;20:12</p> <p>turnout (1) 3:25</p> <p>turns (1) 25:15</p> <p>two (4) 9:20;14:15,15,23</p> <p>type (1) 4:19</p> <p>types (1) 10:20</p> <p>typical (2) 8:23;10:22</p>	<p>8:11</p> <p>United (1) 3:5</p> <p>unlikely (1) 11:11</p> <p>up (13) 4:19;6:21;12:4,18, 20;15:14;16:21; 17:11;19:6;23:18; 24:16;26:1,13</p> <p>use (1) 4:20</p> <p>used (4) 8:14;10:15,20; 11:17</p> <p>using (1) 21:3</p> <p>usual (1) 22:3</p> <p>usually (1) 27:3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <p>valuable (1) 19:21</p> <p>various (1) 10:25</p> <p>Vavrik (1) 4:17</p> <p>villages (1) 18:7</p> <p>Volume (2) 7:3,3</p> <p>volumes (1) 22:8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <p>wants (2) 23:4;28:15</p> <p>waste (5) 21:4,5,7,9,19</p> <p>wastewater (1) 23:1</p> <p>Water (3) 18:4;21:8;22:1</p> <p>waters (7) 10:2;20:21,24; 22:24;26:2,14,18</p> <p>way (7) 19:2,11,20;20:3; 26:2;27:8,8</p> <p>weeks (1) 20:3</p> <p>welcome (4) 16:16;17:15;25:7, 24</p> <p>wells (2) 14:10;23:3</p> <p>West (1) 10:13</p> <p>wetlands (1)</p>	<p>10:15</p> <p>whale (11) 17:24;18:2,9,12,12; 19:5;21:12;22:7;26:4, 16;27:3</p> <p>whales (16) 3:20,21;22:1,2,9; 24:5;26:7,7,11,12,15, 20;27:2,7,11;28:4</p> <p>whales' (1) 26:20</p> <p>whaling (9) 4:2;8:8;17:17;20:5, 18;26:5,6;27:4,6</p> <p>whole (3) 16:10,12;18:24</p> <p>Wildlife (4) 18:19,22;21:21; 23:5</p> <p>winter (3) 7:15;20:17;22:23</p> <p>without (1) 27:10</p> <p>work (11) 4:15,16;5:2,14,25; 18:11,16,25;20:9,24; 23:7</p> <p>worked (2) 14:1;17:25</p> <p>working (3) 7:1;18:20,22</p> <p>works (1) 4:24</p> <p>world (4) 13:11;14:9,11,16</p> <p>write (2) 5:22;6:2</p> <p>written (4) 4:11;13:16;15:14; 23:12</p> <p>wrote (2) 5:5;16:3</p> <p>wwwregulationsgov (1) 11:18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <p>year (4) 16:4;26:6,9,11</p> <p>years (2) 17:25;18:15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>1 (3) 7:3;8:24;10:14</p> <p>1.5 (3) 7:20;10:1,2</p> <p>10:00 (2) 27:15;28:8</p> <p>100 (1) 12:15</p> <p>13 (1)</p>	<p>14:10</p> <p>15 (1) 15:14</p> <p>17 (1) 24:9</p> <p>186-day (1) 8:5</p> <p>18th (1) 11:21</p> <p>1988 (1) 26:4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>2 (2) 7:3;9:3</p> <p>2015 (2) 7:2;8:6</p> <p>2016 (1) 8:6</p> <p>2021 (1) 7:15</p> <p>2023 (1) 7:15</p> <p>25 (1) 14:14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>30 (1) 17:25</p> <p>30-day (1) 20:11</p> <p>3A (1) 9:21</p> <p>3B (1) 9:25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>40 (1) 26:7</p> <p>40,000 (1) 13:12</p> <p>40,600 (1) 13:17</p> <p>42,300 (1) 13:15</p> <p>4A (2) 10:5,6</p> <p>4B (2) 10:5,8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>5.6-mile (1) 7:19</p> <p>50 (2) 26:11,13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>60 (1)</p>	<p>7:5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>7.1 (1) 13:6</p> <p>70 (1) 7:6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>8:00 (3) 28:1,7,11</p> <p>8:48 (2) 28:19,21</p> <p>800 (1) 17:10</p>
U				
<p>UERD (2) 14:6,17</p> <p>ultimately (1) 11:4</p> <p>ultra (1) 15:18</p> <p>undertake (1) 20:16</p> <p>unique (1)</p>				