



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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March 16, 2017

John F. Schell, Jr.
Land & BD Manager
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
P.O. Box 100360 – Suite ATO 1476
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0360

Re: Reconsideration of the “Colville River Unit Denial of the Fifth Expansion of the Unit Area with Modifications Under Which Approval Will Be Granted – Findings and Decision of the Commissioner of the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources” dated February 17, 2017

Dear Mr. Schell:

I have received your timely submitted request for reconsideration of the above captioned February 17, 2017 decision denying the fifth expansion of the Colville River Unit. The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge receipt of your request and inform you that I will be reconsidering the decision. I will review your submittal and issue a subsequent decision on your request for a hearing and the substance of your request in due course.

Your request also asserts that it automatically stays the February 17, 2017 decision and alternatively requests a discretionary stay. The February 17 decision is an administration of a unit agreement and therefore a request for reconsideration does not automatically stay the decision pursuant to 11 AAC 02.060(d). You argue that a stay should be granted based on whether there is a likelihood of success on the merits and risk of irreparable harm, but this is not the standard for a stay. I can stay a decision if I determine that the public interest requires a stay. I hereby find that the public's interest in the orderly exploration and development of natural resources and competitive bidding for oil and gas leases requires staying the February 17 decision until this review is complete.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Mack".

Andrew T. Mack
Commissioner

CC: Chantal Walsh, Director, Division of Oil & Gas
Department of Law