
From: Jared Zimmerman <jared_zimmerman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2013 4:24 PM
To: dogcomments (DNR sponsored)
Subject: Proposed Oil and Gas Regulations

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments as you move to implement new legislation and update regulations. I'm a resident of the Denali Borough and a member of the Denali Borough Assembly. My home is located within the Healy Basin Gas Exploration License Area, and I could be affected by the proposed regulation changes.

If changing the decision authority from the commissioner to the department changes how the public can inform, weigh-in on, or appeal a plan of operations decision, the changes should also ensure that the public's ability to participate is safeguarded.

Residential communities should be given special consideration in plan of operations decisions, and they should be included in section e (4). The definition should be inclusive of incorporated communities as well as unincorporated communities and rural residential areas. See bold below:

(4) a description of operating procedures designed to prevent and minimize adverse effects on other natural resources and other uses of the leased or licensed area and adjacent area, including fish and wildlife habitats, historic and archaeological sites, residential areas, nearby communities, and public use areas,

If area wide leasing will be allowed and/or considered in the Denali Borough under the new regulations, local residents may be unaware of the impacts of resource development to their livelihoods. Eliminating the best interest finding between the exploration and development phases could eliminate important local public input from the decision-making process gained through experience with exploration activities. It is hard for the public to provide meaningful input on processes and activities which they do not understand. Experience from rural communities in the lower 48 with recent gas development has shown over and over again that how developers and regulators describe activities and how local residents view those impacts are vastly different.

Because many of the lands with resource potential in the Denali Borough also provide livelihood through tourism, subsistence, recreation, and residences, it is imperative that the decision to open these lands to exploration and development be seen in this greater context.

I agree with your decision to evaluate decisions for lands close to incorporated communities on a case by case basis, as this reflects the increased value of these lands for uses other than resource development. I encourage the state to include in its regulations appropriate limits to lease sales as they encroach upon rural residential areas as well as the incorporated communities. Regulations for new lease area boundaries should take into account the potential negative effects that exploration and development could have to the alternative and existing uses.

Thank you, and please contact me with any questions.

Jared Zimmerman

jared_zimmerman@hotmail.com

(907) 683-2127