



January 19, 2016

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Requesting Comments and Agency Information on Oil and Gas Exploration
Houston Willow Solicitation Area**

The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas (DO&G) is reopening the comment period on an oil and gas exploration license proposal for the Houston Willow area. In accordance with AS 38.05.133(b), AS 38.05.945(b), and 11 AAC 82.912: DO&G solicited competing bids and gave public notice of its intent to evaluate the Houston Willow exploration license proposal from December 17, 2007 to January 17, 2008; DO&G solicited public comments on this proposal from April 14, 2008 to July 14, 2008. DO&G will hold cost data and financial provisions of the proposal confidential (AS 38.05.035(a)(8) and AS 38.05.133(e)).

Before issuing an exploration license, DO&G must, in writing, find that an exploration license in this area is in the state's best interest (AS 38.05.133(f)). If a license is found to be in the state's best interest, a license holder will have the exclusive right to explore state land within the license area for deposits of oil and gas for up to 10 years, and may convert all or a portion of the license area to oil and gas leases after meeting the work commitment specified in the license.

Before DO&G evaluates the acceptability of the Houston Willow exploration license proposal, DO&G invites the public, agencies, and other interested parties to comment on exploration for oil and gas resources within the solicitation area (AS 38.05.945). DO&G requests publically available information and data about the area's property ownership, people, economy, current uses, subsistence, historic and cultural resources, fish and wildlife, habitats, other natural resource values, and reasonably foreseeable effects of exploration on the solicitation area (AS 38.05.035(g)). Information received will provide the basis for the commissioner's finding.

The solicitation area consists of **state-owned, unencumbered land** within:

T.19N, R.3W, Seward Meridian, Sections 31 through 36.

T.18N, R.3W, Seward Meridian, Sections 1 through 18; Section 20: NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4, NE1/4SE1/4; Section 21: N1/2, N1/2S1/2; Section 22: N1/2, N1/2S1/2; Section 23: N1/2, N1/2S1/2; Section 24: N1/2.

T.19N, R.4W, Seward Meridian, Sections 35 and 36.

T.18N, R.4W, Seward Meridian, Sections 1, 2; Section 11: NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4, NW1/4NW1/4, E1/2SE1/4, NW1/4SE1/4; Section 12; Section 13: NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4, NW1/4NW1/4. (Refer to map).

Comments received during this comment period will be considered in addition to comments received in previous comment periods for the Houston Willow exploration license proposal. Those who have commented previously need not re-submit a comment.

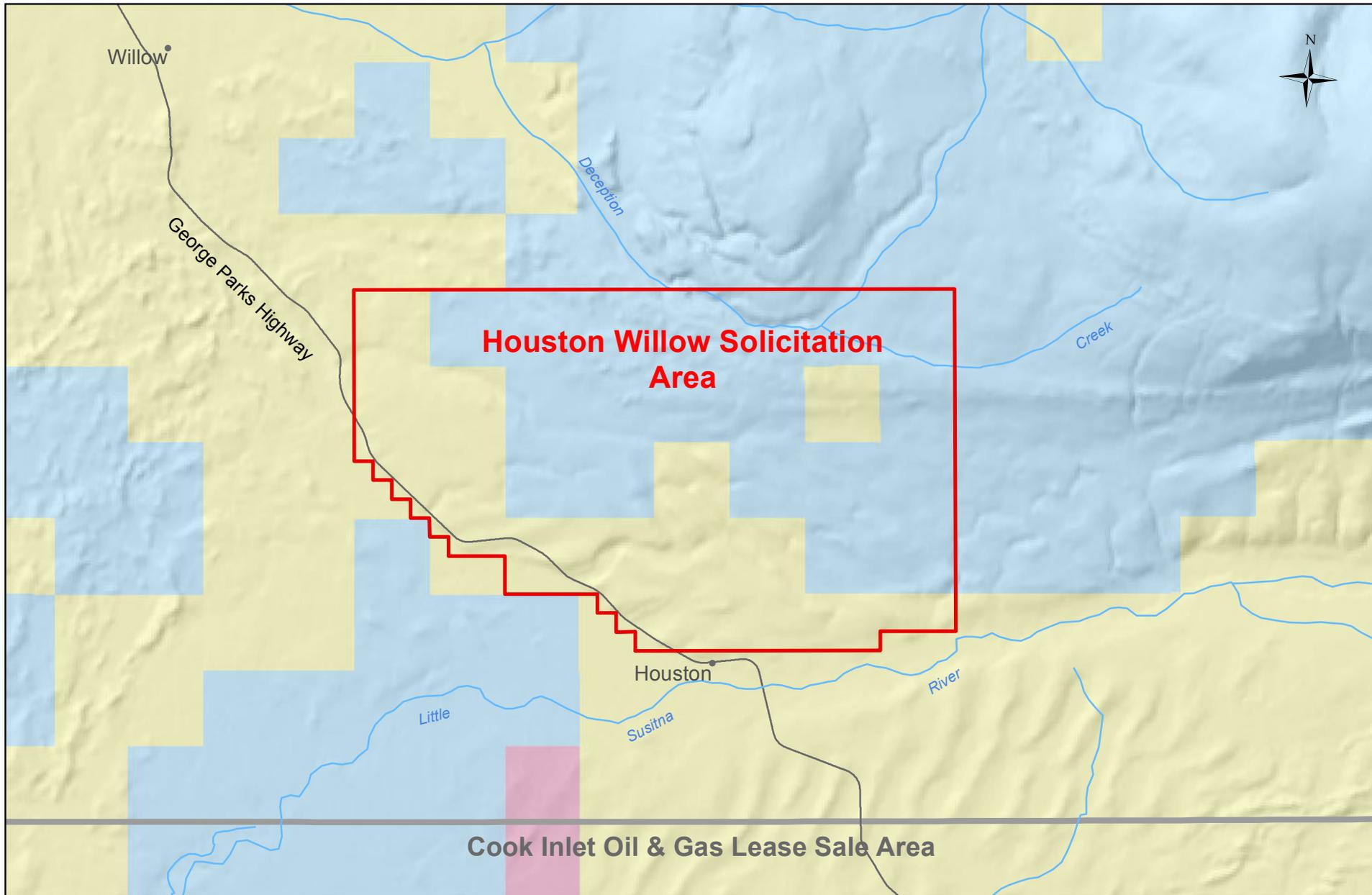
How to Submit Comments and Agency Information

Clearly mark submittal(s) as "*Comment on Exploration in the Houston Willow Solicitation Area*", or "*Agency Information on Exploration within the Houston Willow Solicitation Area*" and send to:

Best Interest Findings
500 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1100, Anchorage, AK 99501
or email to: dog.bif@alaska.gov

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 26, 2016

The DO&G complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990. On request, this announcement will be made available in alternative communication formats. A person is eligible to file a request for reconsideration of the commissioner's decision and file a subsequent appeal to the Superior Court only if the person has meaningfully participated in the process by either submitting written comment during the period for receipt of public comment or has presented oral testimony at a public hearing, if a public hearing was held, and is affected by the final written finding (AS 38.05.035(i)).



Houston Willow Exploration License Solicitation Area Boundary Map

ADL 391282

Map created January, 2016



This map was created, edited, and published by the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas, and is for informational purposes only.

Land Status

- Native
- State
- Private or Municipal

