

# STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

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June 26, 2009

**Decision of No Substantial New Information**  
**North Slope Areawide 2009 Oil and Gas Lease Sale**  
**Best Interest Finding**

Under AS 38.05.035(e)(6)(F), a written finding is not required for an oil and gas lease sale of acreage subject to a best interest finding issued within the previous 10 years unless the commissioner determines that substantial new information has become available that justifies a supplement to the most recent best interest finding. The final finding for the North Slope Areawide was issued on July 15, 2008. On March 3, 2009, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), Division of Oil and Gas (DO&G) issued a Call for New Information regarding its proposal to offer all available state acreage in the North Slope Areawide Oil and Gas Lease Sales. The purpose of the call was to provide an opportunity for interested parties to submit to DO&G any substantial new information that has become available since issuance of the best interest finding for this area.

In response to the call, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Division of Habitat reviewed the request by ADNR and did not have any significant new information regarding fish and wildlife, subsistence, and reasonably foreseeable effects on oil and gas exploration and development to add to the best interest finding for this sale at this time.

The Brooks Range Petroleum Corporation (an onshore operator of oil and gas leases located on the North Slope), requested that the State of Alaska consider improving the terms for state oil and gas leases by increasing the term from 5 years to 10 years, decreasing the royalty from 16.66667% to 12.5%, decreasing the minimum bid amount from \$10 to \$5, and decreasing the annual rental amount from \$3 to \$1. Requests for changes to the specific terms for oil and gas leases do not constitute substantial new information that has become available that justifies a supplement to the most recent best interest finding for the North Slope Areawide Oil and Gas Lease Sale. Specific lease terms will be addressed during the lease sale process.

Therefore, ADNR has determined that no substantial new information has become available that justifies a supplement to the most recent best interest finding for North Slope Areawide Oil and Gas Lease Sales.

A person affected by this decision who provided timely written comment may request reconsideration, in accordance with 11 AAC 02. Any reconsideration request must be received by July 16, 2009, and may be mailed or delivered to Thomas E. Irwin, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; faxed to 1-907-269-8918, or sent by electronic mail to [dnr.appeals@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.appeals@alaska.gov). If reconsideration is not requested by that date or if the commissioner does not order reconsideration on his own motion, this decision

goes into effect as a final order and decision on July 26, 2009. Failure of the commissioner to act on a request for reconsideration within 30 days after issuance of this decision is a denial of reconsideration and is a final administrative order and decision for purposes of an appeal to Superior Court. The decision may then be appealed to Superior Court within a further 30 days in accordance with the rules of the court, and to the extent permitted by applicable law. An eligible person must first request reconsideration of this decision in accordance with 11 AAC 02 before appealing this decision to Superior Court. A copy of 11 AAC 02 may be obtained from any regional information office of the Department of Natural Resources.



Thomas E. Irwin  
Commissioner

cc: Jack F. Winters, Habitat Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Division of Habitat  
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