

## RESOLUTION 07-09

### A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH REGARDING THE PROPOSED 5-YEAR PLAN FOR THE 2007-2012 OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OSC) OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Section 18 of the OCS Lands Act requires the Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service (MMS) to solicit public comment during the preparation of the 5-Year Plan for the 2007-2012 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program; and

WHEREAS, the MMS has created 26 OCS planning areas, one of which is named the North Aleutian Basin located 3 miles offshore of the Aleutians East Borough coast; and

WHEREAS, the North Aleutian Basin is currently subject to a 1998 presidential withdrawal prohibiting oil and gas leasing in this area through June 30, 2012, under the authority of Section 12 of the OCS Lands Act; and

WHEREAS, a August 24, 2006 public notice was placed in Federal Register requesting comments on the Proposed 5-Year Plan for the 2007-2012 OCS oil and gas leasing program; and

WHEREAS, the MMS Proposed 5 -Year Plan Proposed Program Option for the North Aleutian Basin offers for leasing consideration only that area offered in the 1998 Lease Sale 92 and proposes leases sales in years 2010 and 2012; and

WHEREAS, comments on the Proposed 5-Year Plan must be submitted to MMS by November 24, 2006; and

WHEREAS, MMS estimates the North Aleutian Basin may contain oil and gas reserves of 630 million barrels and 5.85 trillion cubic feet of gas, respectively; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing and subsistence has supported the people of the Eastern Aleutians Islands and Alaska Peninsula for centuries; and

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WHEREAS, commercial fishing and subsistence must continue to support the people of the Eastern Aleutians Islands and Alaska Peninsula after the oil and gas is depleted; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Aleutians East Borough hereby confirms its support the Mineral Management Service's (MMS's) Proposed 5 -Year Plan for the 2007-2012 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program and the Proposed Program Option for the North Aleutian Basin which offers for leasing consideration only that area offered in the 1998 Lease Sale 92, provided maximum protection and priority be given to fishery resources, provided exploration and development be conducted in an environmentally safe manner, and provided that lease stipulations are included requiring oil and gas companies to provide employment and business opportunities to the residents of the Aleutians East Borough; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Aleutians East Borough:

1. requests the Governor of Alaska and the President of the United States to consider eliminating the 1998 presidential withdrawal prohibiting oil and gas leasing in the North Aleutian Basin; and
2. recommends an additional lease sale be held in year 2009, to expedite development of this important national gas supply, provided MMS can complete all the baseline studies, environmental assessments and ensure protections are in place to address residents concerns; and
3. requests federal funding to fund studies to effectively protect local fishery resources, the environment, and to create economic opportunities for the residents; and
4. requests the Aleutians East Borough be included during the subsequent Environmental Impact Statement process related to the North Aleutian Basin Leasing Program as a Cooperating Agency; and
5. requests adequate lease stipulations be added to mitigate any potential adverse social and environmental affects; and
6. reserves the right to withdraw support for oil and gas leasing in the North Aleutian Basin during the 5-Year Plan period of 2007-2012, if the requirements of this resolution are not met; and

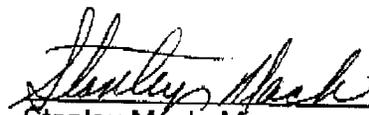
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Aleutians East Borough will provide a copy of this resolution as its formal comments to MMS, and to the Governor of Alaska, on the Proposed 5-Year Plan.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE Aleutians East Borough on this 16 day of October, 2006.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

By:

  
Stanley Mack, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Tina Anderson, Clerk