

RESOLUTION 09-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH (AEB) REGARDING THE 2010-2015 OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS) 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 information from interested and affected local governments during the preparation of the 5-year OCS oil and gas leasing program for the period of 2010-2015; 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, a North Aleutian Basin lease sale was proposed in the 5-year OCS oil and gas leasing program for the period of 2007-2012, with a lease sale planned for year 2011; and

WHEREAS, the AEB is assisting MMS in drafting the North Aleutian Basin Lease Sale Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as a Cooperating Agency; and

WHEREAS, the AEB has supported oil and gas leasing in the North Aleutian Basin in an area limited to the previously approved 1998 Lease Sale 92 area (now called Lease Sale 214); and

WHEREAS, on January 16, 2009, MMS announced its interest in accelerating the next 5-year OCS oil and gas leasing program to include additional leasing opportunities, and MMS has requested comment on whether lease sales should be held in the North Aleutian Basin in year 2011 and 2014 in the previously approved Lease Sale 92 area (now called Lease Sale 214).

WHEREAS, comments on the 2010-2015 OCS leasing program scope must be submitted to MMS by September 21, 2009; 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

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 for oil and gas leasing in the North Aleutian Basin during the five year OCS leasing program for 2010-2015, provided the maximum protection is given to fishery resources, provided exploration and development is 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 requests:

1. The Governor of Alaska and the Alaska Delegation to support MMS's proposed Option No. 1 that includes two lease sales in the North Aleutian Basin during the 2010-2015 period. One lease sale in year 2011 and one in 2014, in the previously approved Lease Sale 92 area (now called Lease Sale 214); and
2. Continued formal standing as a cooperating agency in development of an Environmental Impact Statement to support an OCS lease sale for the period of 2010-2015 targeting oil and gas exploration and development in the North Aleutian Basin; and
3. Maximum protection and priority be given to fishery resources; and
4. Exploration and development be conducted in an environmentally safe manner, including installation of best available pollution control technologies and prevention measures on all aspects of the project design and operation; and
5. Federal funding be provided to fund studies to effectively protect local fishery resources, the environment, and to create economic opportunities for the residents; and
6. Federal funding be made available to AEB and interested local residents to allow them participate effectively in Environmental Impact Statement and Lease Sale process, including travel and consultancies.
7. Adequate lease stipulations be added to mitigate any potential adverse social and environmental affects and to provide employment, training, and business opportunities to the residents of the Aleutians East Borough (including the Aleutian East Borough's proposed mitigation measures, attached); and
8. OCS Revenue Sharing be made available to the entire area to compensate for the risk and share the benefit of the leasing program.

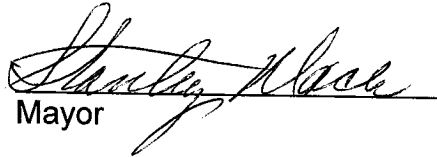
9. Reserves the right to withdraw support for oil and gas leasing in the North Aleutian Basin during the five year OCS leasing program for 2010-2015 if the requirements of this resolution are not met; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Aleutians East Borough will provide a copy of this resolution as its formal comments to MMS on the OCS 2010-2015 leasing program and to the Governor of Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH on this 28th day of May, 2009.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

By:


Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk