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PUBLIC HEARING
FOR
DP005 - LIBERTY PROJECT
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Anchorage, Alaska

Taken October 10, 2017
Commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Volume I - Pages 1 - 54, inclusive

Taken at
Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center
Kahtnu Kenai Meeting Room
600 West 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

Reported by:
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

1 A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S

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Regional Director4 Mark Storzer
Regional Supervisor
5 Office of the Environment6 David Johnston
Regional Supervisor
7 Office of Leasing and Plans8 Megan Carr
Regional Supervisor
9 Office of Resource Evaluation10 Michael Haller
Tribal and Community Liaison11 Frances Mann
12 Chief of Analysis Section II
Office of the Environment13 Lauren Boldrick
14 Liberty Program Manager15 John Callahan
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17 Mark Fesmire
Regional Director, Alaska Region18 Eric Miller
19 Chief, Oil Spill Preparedness Division20 Steve Pearson
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21 For Environmental Protection Agency:

22 Jennifer Curtis
NEPA Reviewer23 Jamey Stoddard
24 NEPA Compliance Coordinator

25 Andrea LaTier

1 BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken
2 at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before
3 Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary
4 Public within and for the State of Alaska.

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 DR. JAMES KENDALL: I think we can start
3 now. I'm not going to use the microphone because I think
4 you can hear me pretty well. My name is Jim Kendall. I'm
5 the Regional Director for the Bureau of Ocean Energy
6 Management here in Anchorage.

7 First of all, what is a BOEM? BOEM is not an oil
8 company. It's not the State. It's not some other group.
9 It's the federal government and part of the Department of
10 Interior.

11 We have several of us here, as well as some of our
12 collaborating agencies. The document we're going to talk
13 about tonight was done not just by BOEM, but also with
14 help from EPA, the Corps of Engineers, Fish & Wildlife,
15 Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. This has
16 been a team effort.

17 So tonight, welcome. We are going to talk about the
18 draft EIS for the proposed Liberty development in the
19 Beaufort Sea. The EIS was released on August 18th of this
20 year. The comment period ends on November 18th. Last
21 week we were in Nuiqsut and Barrow and Fairbanks. This is
22 the last public hearing for the document, but we are still
23 collecting comments on it.

24 Many of us have name tags. They will be from BOEM
25 BSEE, EPA and others. Feel free to seek them out. But

1 there are two people I want to introduce specifically.

2 First of all, Mary Vavrik. She is our court
3 reporter. This is not a scoping meeting. This is a
4 public hearing on a document that's been released. So she
5 is taking a transcription of everything that is said.

6 So two things: If you decide to come up and offer
7 testimony, please give your name so Mary can record it,
8 and if you happen to be speaking from some type of a
9 written document, feel free to give it to Mary because
10 that makes sure that the notes that are taken are
11 accurate.

12 When we get to the public hearing phase, please limit
13 your comments to three to five minutes so everybody has a
14 chance. And to be fair, we are -- in order of people
15 speaking, we are going to do a lottery system with a
16 little ticket so that way everybody has a fair chance of
17 coming up first or maybe coming up last.

18 To get this kicked off, I'm going to turn it over to
19 our colleague, the second person I'm going to introduce,
20 Lauren Boldrick. She is the project manager for the BOEM
21 activities in reviewing this document. So Lauren, if you
22 will come up here and give us an introduction to what we
23 are talking about this evening.

24 MS. LAUREN BOLDRICK: All right. Hi,
25 everyone. Can you hear me okay? Okay. I guess we are on

1 the microphone now. So there is a couple of things before
2 I kick off the presentation that I would like to alert you
3 to. First of all, if you would like to leave a comment on
4 the website, we have three computers stationed in the back
5 for you. So if you don't feel comfortable talking in
6 front of our group, you are welcome to leave your comment
7 on the computer in the back, and that will get uploaded
8 right away to regulations.gov, and it will be processed
9 through our normal processes.

10 The second thing is that EPA also has brought comment
11 sheets for their NPDES permit. All of the cooperating
12 agencies have been working really closely together, and so
13 they are having their comment period on the NPDES permit.
14 Their comment sheets are out on the outside table.

15 And then Mary asked me to reiterate for her, if you
16 have written comments that you are going to be speaking
17 from, please give them to her. It's very helpful.

18 So with all that, thank you for joining us today. We
19 really appreciate that you have come out. We have worked
20 really hard on this document. It's always so great for us
21 to see so many faces out in the audience. So we have been
22 working on the Liberty draft EIS since 2015.

23 So this slide displays the cover pages of Volume 1
24 and Volume 2 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
25 There is also copies outside on the table in paper copy

1 and CD if you would like to take those home tonight.

2 This large overview map shows the proposed Liberty
3 island location, which is about 60 miles from Nuiqsut and
4 about 70 miles from Kaktovik. This more detailed map
5 shows that the proposed Liberty island is about eight
6 miles from Endicott Satellite Drilling Island.

7 So the whole reason why we are here tonight is
8 because Hilcorp Alaska is planning to initiate commercial
9 hydrocarbon production of the Liberty reservoir by the
10 winter of 2021 to 2023. As described in the Liberty
11 development and production plan, the Liberty development
12 would be a self-contained Outer Continental Shelf gravel
13 island. It will be located about 5.6 miles offshore, so
14 they would have a pipeline that runs from their island,
15 buried in a trench to land, and then it would continue
16 about 1.5 miles over land to the Badami tie-in point.

17 The Liberty development will include a new onshore
18 gravel mine, an onshore tie-in pad, and the construction
19 of onshore and offshore ice roads.

20 The proposed Liberty development would have five
21 stages. So first Hilcorp would develop a new gravel mine,
22 construct ice roads, then construct their manmade gravel
23 production island, the pipeline, and then they would
24 proceed with drilling and hydrocarbon production.

25 So we have been getting a lot of public comment over

1 the course of this project. We accepted scoping comments
2 on the draft EIS for a 160-day duration, which lasted from
3 September 2015 through March of 2016. BOEM received
4 several thousand comments, which included concerns over
5 subsistence whaling, impacts to marine mammals and
6 threatened and endangered species, the possibility of oil
7 spills in an Arctic environment, and potential impacts to
8 the unique boulder patch ecosystem. Commenters also
9 suggested alternate locations for gravel sources for oil
10 and gas processing and for the island itself. These
11 comments and concerns were used to develop and inform the
12 analysis of additional action alternatives in the draft
13 EIS.

14 As shown on this slide, many other federal, state and
15 local governments have been cooperating with BOEM on the
16 development of this draft EIS.

17 BOEM has analyzed five alternatives in the draft EIS.
18 Hilcorp's proposed action as described earlier, including
19 normal best management practices, operator-committed
20 measures, and cooperating agency typical permit allowances
21 as mitigation measures constitutes Alternative 1. In
22 addition to the proposed action, NEPA requires analysis of
23 a no action alternative, meaning that no part of Hilcorp's
24 proposal would occur. This is Alternative 2 in the draft
25 EIS. The remaining three alternatives were developed as a

1 result of scoping comments about alternate island
2 locations, alternate gravel mine locations and alternate
3 processing locations.

4 In response to public comments suggesting an
5 alternative that would relocate the island in order to
6 avoid or reduce impacts to the boulder patch communities,
7 BOEM asked Hilcorp to identify possible alternate island
8 locations that would maintain the technical feasibility of
9 its project. In addition, these alternate locations would
10 minimize impacts to the boulder patch from turbidity and
11 sedimentation associated with construction activities
12 and/or move the island and other project components as far
13 away from the densest areas of known boulder patch habitat
14 as practical.

15 Therefore, based on public comment as well as
16 responses from Hilcorp, BOEM developed two
17 subalternatives. Alternative 3A would relocate the island
18 about one mile to the east, which would result in the
19 island being about one mile further from the densest areas
20 of the boulder patch as compared to the proposed action.
21 Alternative 3B would locate the island about 1.5 miles
22 closer to shore into the state of Alaska waters, and this
23 would place it about 1.5 miles further from the densest
24 areas of the boulder patch as compared to the proposed
25 action.

1 Moving on, Alternative 4A and 4B analyzed alternate
2 processing locations. Alternative 4A analyzes processing
3 at the existing Endicott Satellite Drilling Island
4 facility, and Alternative 4B analyzes processing at a new
5 onshore facility. BOEM assumed for the purpose of the
6 draft EIS that this new onshore facility would be located
7 where the pipeline is already proposed to come ashore.

8 Scoping comments suggested BOEM analyze alternate
9 locations for the proposed West Kadleroshilik River mine
10 site No. 1 to minimize impacts to migratory birds, fish
11 and wetlands used for subsistence purposes and other
12 resources. BOEM conducted a thorough review of existing
13 technical and survey information and, based on this
14 review, identified three plausible alternate locations for
15 analysis.

16 In the draft EIS, BOEM used four types of mitigation
17 measures in its analyses. These include lease
18 stipulations, operator-committed measures, typical
19 requirements from our cooperating agencies, and the
20 resulting consultations and project-specific measures.

21 This draft EIS analyzes the impacts of the various
22 alternatives with the intent of disclosing those impacts
23 to the public, which is you -- thank you for coming
24 tonight -- and to the decisionmakers. In the case of the
25 Liberty Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the

1 decisionmaker is ultimately the Secretary of Interior.

2 The draft EIS also considers mitigation measures that
3 could minimize the impacts of the action alternatives.
4 Impacts to the resources in the action area range from
5 negligible to major, depending on the resource and the
6 scope of the analysis. A very large oil spill is not
7 considered part of the proposed action or the alternatives
8 and is extremely unlikely. Impacts from a very large oil
9 spill would be major. Additional information is available
10 in the materials provided at this presentation tonight,
11 which are out on that table that you passed when you first
12 walked in.

13 So what we are here for tonight is your comments.
14 You can testify, leave comments in the back, or you can go
15 online later at your convenience. We are really looking
16 for comments that suggest additional information for
17 analysis or that note issues not considered in the draft
18 EIS already. These comments are very helpful and
19 considered substantive comments. These will be used to
20 inform the preparation of the final EIS. To make a
21 comment, you can go to www.regulations.gov and search for
22 document No. BOEM-2015-0068-0164. You can click on the
23 "comment now" button on the top of the page and add your
24 comment. And our comment period will close on November
25 18, 2017.

1 As I've said many times, we really appreciate your
2 attendance and participation tonight, and we look forward
3 to hearing your comments.

4 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you very much.
5 We are going to get the box of little tickets in there so
6 we can start having folks give their comments. Please
7 keep in mind that the EIS is not a decision document.
8 It's informational only. This is what the decisionmaker
9 looks at. So we want to have the best document we
10 possibly can so when we sit down with the decisionmaker
11 and show them the document, we can all -- everybody in
12 this room, all the agencies that participated,
13 et cetera -- can feel everything is there.

14 All rightie. Let's go for the first one. Okay. The
15 first ticket, the last three numbers are 026.

16 Welcome, sir.

17 MR. PETE STOKES: Last in, first out, huh?
18 Good evening, and thank you for having this hearing. My
19 name is Pete Stokes, and I'm a professional petroleum
20 engineer working for a local firm called PRA. I'm
21 testifying on behalf of myself, my wife, my three
22 offspring who work in Anchorage, and my three grandkids
23 and for their future.

24 I grew up on the Kenai Peninsula, went to school in
25 Fairbanks, have worked in oil and gas starting in Alaska,

1 with jobs in other states and overseas and having worked
2 for the last 17 years back in Anchorage. I ask that BOEM
3 approve Hilcorp's plan in the EIS to allow the Liberty
4 project to move forward.

5 The Liberty project builds upon more than 30 years of
6 proven technology and safe operation in the shallow waters
7 of the Beaufort Sea. The production and drilling gravel
8 island concept has been proven and utilized safely and
9 environmentally soundly by Northstar, Oooguruk and the
10 Nikaitchuq developments. The Liberty production island
11 will be well protected from the polar ice pack, sheltered
12 by a belt of offshore barrier islands.

13 The offshore Liberty pipeline will be buried in the
14 subsea floor. It will include automatic leak detection
15 and temperature monitoring technology, proven technology
16 utilized on existing production islands in the region.

17 The rigorous multi-year permitting process for
18 Liberty has addressed the concerns that were raised during
19 the previous comment period. Approximately 60 federal,
20 state and local permits will be required for this project
21 to move forward.

22 Hilcorp is committed to signing a conflict avoidance
23 agreement with the local whaling groups to engage with the
24 whalers to protect their subsistence activities.

25 Development of Liberty will result and create hundreds of

1 construction jobs primarily for Alaskans and good-paying
2 permanent jobs and will create new opportunities for many
3 businesses located here in Alaska and great jobs for my
4 grandkids. Liberty will provide tax revenues for the
5 North Slope Borough and royalty payments to the State of
6 Alaska.

7 In summary, for future jobs and growth in the state's
8 and the federal government's revenues and economic
9 activity in the area, I urge the approving of Hilcorp's
10 environmentally responsible plan to develop the Liberty
11 oilfield. Thank you.

12 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you very much.
13 In turn, I'm going to ask you to pick the next name, the
14 next number. All right. Thank you very much. Okay.

15 MR. PETE STOKES: Lucky No. 025.

16 DR. JAMES KENDALL: The last three digits,
17 025 is it. Thank you very much. Who is next? Ticket
18 No. 025.

19 MR. JEREMY PRICE: That's me.

20 DR. JAMES KENDALL: All right. Welcome
21 aboard.

22 MR. JEREMY PRICE: My name is Jeremy
23 Price. I'm the State Director of Americans for
24 Prosperity. I rise in support of the proposed action.

25 This is a project that's been around a long time. I

1 remember being on the Slope seeing the big, massive drill
2 rig that BP had brought up. This is a project that can be
3 done safely. It can be done in an environmentally safe
4 way, and it's a project that will benefit all of us
5 Alaskans.

6 I'm from the Interior. I'm raising a family here in
7 Anchorage now with three kids. We are dependent on the
8 future of this oil and gas industry. Our state depends on
9 it. Another 60- to 70,000 barrels a day of production
10 would go a long way in extending our pipeline. In the
11 early '90s when I was 10, 11, 12 years old, the pipeline
12 was at peak capacity, 2,000,000 barrels a day, and now
13 we're at half a million barrels a day. We desperately
14 need this shot in the arm to the economy.

15 Alaska for months has led the nation in the
16 unemployment rate. As of September 15th of this year, the
17 Bureau of Labor Statistics has the federal employment rate
18 at 7.2 percent. That's the highest in the nation. We
19 don't like to see that. We don't -- we are not looking
20 for a handout from the federal government. We are looking
21 for permission, permission for the private sector to
22 explore, to develop resources, and to provide jobs and an
23 economic shot in the arm. And that's what we need right
24 now.

25 Our future depends on it. My children's future

1 depends on it. We know it can be done safely. I urge the
2 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to approve this project
3 and move it forward. Thanks a lot.

4 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you very much.
5 And if you will pick the next ticket, please. You can
6 read the last three digits.

7 MR. JEREMY PRICE: Lucky No. 015.

8 DR. JAMES KENDALL: While you are coming
9 up, I want to remind everybody, please mute your cell
10 phones because I know someone will be speaking and
11 something will go off.

12 MR. CARL PORTMAN: Good evening. My name
13 is Carl Portman, and I'm the Deputy Director of the
14 Resource Development Council, and I am here to express
15 RDC's support for the Liberty project and urge the Bureau
16 of Ocean Energy Management to approve the proposed action
17 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

18 With the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline running at
19 three-quarters empty, projects like Liberty need to move
20 forward. Liberty has the potential to increase throughput
21 in the pipeline by up to 70,000 barrels per day.

22 Development and production of this oil will provide
23 economic benefits across Alaska, including tax revenue to
24 the North Slope Borough, jobs for Alaskans, and new
25 opportunities for Alaska businesses.

1 While Alaska remains in the grip of a prolonged
2 recession, it is still a state rich in oil with billions
3 of barrels yet to be developed and produced. In fact,
4 there is more conventional oil remaining in place in the
5 Alaska Arctic than what has been produced in the 40 years
6 since production began on the North Slope. Liberty and
7 other potential North Slope projects combined can refill
8 TAPS and help grow Alaska's economy out of this recession.

9 RDC is confident the Liberty reservoir can be
10 developed in an environmentally responsible manner.
11 Hilcorp will utilize technology that has been safely used
12 in other Arctic offshore development over the past 30
13 years. The Liberty development and production plan
14 incorporates key elements of the previous EIS and uses
15 concepts approved in the prior EIS, including the location
16 of the proposed gravel island, island construction on
17 drilling on-site -- or on-island drilling and processing
18 facilities, as well as the pipeline routing to the coast.

19 Artificial gravel islands are not new to Alaska's
20 Arctic and have a long track record of safe operations.
21 These islands have proven to be a responsible means for
22 oil and gas development in the Beaufort Sea. The Endicott
23 oilfield uses manmade islands for its operations which
24 were constructed nearly 30 years ago. Moreover, the
25 Oooguruk and Northstar and Nikaitchuq fields currently

1 produce oil from artificial islands.

2 The initial discovery of Liberty itself occurred in
3 the 1980s from islands constructed in 1981 and '82.
4 Overall, 18 gravel islands have been constructed for
5 exploration and/or development of oil and gas off the
6 coast of Alaska in the last 40 years.

7 RDC encourages BOEM to move forward and approve
8 Alternative 1, the proposed action in the DEIS and move
9 forward with permitting in a timely manner. We appreciate
10 the opportunity to comment on this important project and
11 will submit more detailed comments in support of the
12 project before the comment deadline.

13 Thank you.

14 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you very much.
15 Can we have your written comments? That will help with
16 the transcription. Thank you very much. And you can pick
17 the next ticket and read the last three digits.

18 MR. CARL PORTMAN: 023.

19 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you very much.

20 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: Hello. Thank you to
21 BOEM and the other agencies for holding this hearing. My
22 name is Lois Epstein, and I am an Alaska licensed engineer
23 and the Arctic Program Director for The Wilderness
24 Society. The Wilderness Society is a national nonprofit
25 conservation organization, and since our beginnings in the

1 1930s, our scientific and policy staff have been involved
2 in Arctic issues. I'm located here in Anchorage.

3 We have several significant concerns with the Liberty
4 project. First, Hilcorp has not demonstrated good
5 performance in Alaska to date with numerous serious
6 enforcement actions by the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation
7 Commission for well-related problems in the Arctic.
8 Additionally, this past winter, Hilcorp had three pipeline
9 releases in Cook Inlet. It took intervention from the
10 highest level, i.e., by Governor Walker, for Hilcorp to
11 shut down one of those releases after several months.
12 This ongoing gas release into Cook Inlet visible from the
13 air was a national embarrassment for Alaska.

14 Second, if there is a blowout from Liberty's
15 relatively high pressure reservoir, the projected worst
16 case discharge volume of over 4.6 million barrels spilled
17 over 90 days would be many times more than that projected
18 from Shell's former Chukchi Sea wells. Additionally,
19 Liberty's proximity to the coast makes a major spill
20 likely to have coastal impacts. Notably, there is no
21 effective form of oil recovery, with all major marine
22 spills capturing less than 10 percent of the oil released.

23 Third, the DEIS, Draft Environmental Impact
24 Statement, finds a moderate to major likelihood of impacts
25 to Nuiqsut whalers and their camp on Cross Island. This

1 impact alone should result in BOEM seriously considering
2 selecting the no action outcome. With the noise and the
3 impact a new island might have on the marine environment,
4 including changing currents and shoals, Nuiqsut hunters
5 might have to travel farther offshore -- significantly
6 farther offshore -- to reach bowhead whales at much
7 greater cost and increased risk. This is an important
8 concern and distinct from the issues raised by the Alaska
9 Eskimo Whaling Commission in Utqiagvik and elsewhere. I
10 was at the Utqiagvik meeting.

11 Fourth, The Wilderness Society and other conservation
12 organizations strongly oppose allowing drilling to occur
13 during the open water season, and we raised this concern
14 during scoping, but it was not one of the analyzed
15 alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
16 During the open water season, major spills will directly
17 affect the marine environment and probably the coast with
18 little possibility of significant recovery of lost oil. A
19 major oil spill means significant adverse impacts, as we
20 heard just moments ago.

21 While cleanup of a major release during the winter
22 will not be complete, at least the oil would be more
23 viscous and would land on ice and thus would be more
24 recoverable than during the open water seasons. In 2001
25 BP permanently restricted drilling to the winter season at

1 the manmade gravel Northstar Island. This precedent also
2 should apply to the Liberty project.

3 Fifth, we support zero discharge of all the waste and
4 wastewaters in order to protect the marine environment.

5 And as a final point of information and contrary to
6 what most Alaskans believe, TAPS and Alaska's Department
7 of Natural Resources data show that Trans-Alaska Pipeline
8 flow has actually increased since 2015 and is projected by
9 DNR to increase through the late 2020s. It's an important
10 point that hasn't really been absorbed by Alaskans or even
11 by the media.

12 Thank you very much for your attention to these
13 comments.

14 DR. JAMES KENDALL: May we have your
15 written comments. Thank you very much. And you can pick
16 the next one and read the last three digits.

17 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: 020.

18 DR. JAMES KENDALL: 020. Thank you. The
19 floor is yours.

20 MS. LAURIE FAGNANI: Thank you. My name
21 is Laurie Fagnani, and I'm the owner of a small business
22 here in Anchorage, MSI Communications, and I'm here
23 representing myself and my 22 employees as long as my --
24 as well as my three-generation family here in Alaska and
25 the future of my children.

1 I'm here to express the support of Hilcorp's Liberty
2 project. It represents a clear path forward in harnessing
3 much needed domestic energy and new growth while utilizing
4 a safe and long-established development process. This is
5 an important project that will help grow North Slope
6 production, increase TAPS throughput, and stimulate the
7 Alaska economy.

8 Being a small business owner with 22 full-time
9 professional employees, my employees and I rely on a
10 healthy oil and gas economy. A project like Liberty is
11 good for Alaska. It's good for others dependent on a
12 healthy oil and gas environment on the North Slope. The
13 Hilcorp Liberty's oilfield project should be allowed to
14 produce into the development and ultimately into
15 production. The proposed plan outlines a safe and
16 efficient approach to development that protects the Arctic
17 environment from adverse impacts as proven through the use
18 of gravel island energy projects for the last 40 years.
19 The 80-to 150,000,000 barrels of recoverable oil will
20 contribute to solving the state's economic crisis while
21 providing badly needed Slope jobs.

22 This project will help America extend its immense
23 energy potential in the Arctic while contributing to
24 America's energy independence. Further, Alaska needs the
25 energy, jobs and revenue that Arctic offshore projects can

1 provide. Resource development in the region has been
2 occurring for decades, and it should continue with the
3 Liberty project.

4 We urge you to approve the draft EIS and allow
5 Liberty partners to pursue an energy project that benefits
6 all Americans. Thank you.

7 DR. JAMES KENDALL: You have the honor of
8 picking the next number.

9 MS. LAURIE FAGNANI: 021.

10 DR. JAMES KENDALL: And you have your
11 comments. If you want to beam them to Mary, that would be
12 great.

13 MR. DREW NEUERBURG: I know there are a
14 lot of people who want to speak tonight, so I'll make this
15 very brief. My name is Drew Neuerburg, and I have been an
16 Alaska resident for over 20 years. Went to school here,
17 have a house here, went to UAA for both a bachelor's and
18 master's degree. And I truly believe that this project is
19 necessary for Alaska.

20 I work for Carlile Transportation, which is a
21 transportation company that would be directly affected by
22 this project. I'm here thinking about several points when
23 I read about this, the first of which is safety. This
24 technology and methodology proposed has been used
25 extensively over the last 30 years and has been proven

1 safe for both the laborers working on site and for the
2 environment surrounding it.

3 Secondly, this project will produce a stimulus for
4 the state's economy directly in the form of oil flowing
5 through TAPS, tax revenue for the state, and much needed
6 jobs for our residents, as we have already heard.
7 Additionally, this will provide much needed work and
8 financial impact for oilfield support companies throughout
9 the state, like the one I work for.

10 Finally, this will positively affect secondary
11 markets through tickle-down economics such as retail or
12 housing markets which have suffered decreases in the past
13 few years. The project as a whole will be a much needed
14 bolster to our economy with low risk to the environment
15 and should be allowed to proceed.

16 Thank you.

17 DR. JAMES KENDALL: If you could then pull
18 out the next number and you can read the last three
19 digits.

20 MR. DREW NEUERBURG: 024.

21 DR. JAMES KENDALL: 024.

22 MR. JOSHUA KINDRED: Hi. My name is
23 Joshua Kindred. I serve as environmental counsel for the
24 Alaska Oil and Gas Association. As you can imagine, I'm
25 here in support of the Liberty project. The Alaska Oil

1 and Gas Association, I, will be submitting more technical
2 written comments at a later date. So I don't want to
3 simply echo the sentiments described earlier, although
4 they are accurate.

5 This is important to get more oil in the pipeline.
6 It is important for the economy. It is important for the
7 state coffers as we sort of try to navigate the current
8 fiscal crisis.

9 But I think it's important -- this isn't my first
10 time testifying at a venue like this and I'm sure it won't
11 be my last. Oftentimes I come to these, it's troubling
12 how much of the conversation can be aptly described as
13 rhetoric and sometimes described as hyperbolic rhetoric.
14 And it's important that decisions like these are made by
15 science and made by data.

16 I almost every day get to work with people, men and
17 women, from Hilcorp that are incredibly bright. They are
18 incredibly dedicated. This isn't a project that's new or
19 novel. This will represent, I think, the 19th gravel
20 island, a similar project like that. So this isn't
21 venturing into new waters. And anybody who sort of sells
22 fear and sells the least likely outcome to discourage
23 these types of investments moving forward is doing a
24 disservice to Alaska and they're doing a disservice to the
25 public.

1 This project is important. There was a point made
2 that we, for the first time in 15 years, have seen
3 increased production in Alaska and we're projected to see
4 increases in the future. That's because of projects like
5 this. We are not going to see those increases in
6 production, we're not going to not see the stimulation of
7 the economy, we're not going to see more money in the
8 state coffers absent these type of projects.

9 So I guess at the end of the day what I'd like to say
10 is the EIS is very thorough. The men and women who put it
11 together, both at Hilcorp and at BOEM, are very, very good
12 at their jobs. It is important to Alaska. There is no
13 reason to believe that if Hilcorp goes forward on this
14 project it's likely to result in any harm to the
15 environment. We have been operating on the North Slope as
16 a state and various companies for a generation now, and we
17 know what we are doing. We don't take it lightly.

18 And so I do advocate for this project. I think it is
19 important. I know it will be done well and I know that
20 the men and women who are working on it will make sure
21 that it does so.

22 And AOGA does plan to submit written comments at a
23 later time.

24 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you, sir. And
25 you have the honor of picking the next one, the last three

1 digits.

2 MR. JOSHUA KINDRED: 014.

3 MR. BILL BINFORD: Good afternoon, folks.
4 My name is Bill Binford, and I'm here to speak in support
5 of the preferred alternative. I'm speaking for my wife,
6 as well. I was first involved in the oil industry when we
7 first produced oil in Alaska. And I have to say I'm very,
8 very proud of the track record that this industry has
9 achieved in this state with safe and environmentally
10 responsible oilfield development. This is one of the most
11 strict regimes for rules and regulations in the world, and
12 we have a sterling record, and I'm very proud of it.

13 I've also watched over the years the production go
14 from 2,000,000 barrels a day to in the 500 range. That's
15 a huge drop. We are using the same proven technologies
16 that we have used on other projects. These concepts are
17 nothing new. They work. The industry knows how to do
18 this. The oil companies know how to do this. This should
19 be a very safe and environmentally responsible project.

20 We all know how much of a struggle the state of
21 Alaska is in right now. Just read the press. It's hard
22 to pay the bills at the state level. There has been a lot
23 of unemployment recently. So this is a very important
24 project for the state of Alaska. It's one of the premier
25 projects for the state to count on for their financial

1 well-being.

2 Therefore, I just ask you to please consider support,
3 all of you, of the preferred alternative. I'll submit my
4 written testimony to the record.

5 Thank you.

6 DR. JAMES KENDALL: You can pick and read
7 the next ticket.

8 MR. BILL BINFORD: That would be No. 22.

9 MR. REED CHRISTENSEN: Thank you. Good
10 evening. For the record, my name is Reed Christensen.
11 I'm the president of Dowland-Bach Corporation. We are a
12 local manufacturing company here in Anchorage, started in
13 1975. I currently employ 28 full-time Alaskans at our
14 company, and I'm here to testify in favor of the proposed
15 development plan.

16 Like has already been mentioned, I have strong
17 concerns about our current state fiscal situation, as well
18 as concerns -- we have four children, two in college, two
19 still at East High School, and as I think about what would
20 be the best for them and their future would be a healthy
21 oil and gas industry providing as many as possible
22 employment opportunities for this next generation, a place
23 to work, a place to live. And so I agree with the
24 comments that have been made before about the economic
25 benefits.

1 And one thing I would add when we talk about Hilcorp,
2 sometimes it's easy to hear some of the comments about the
3 quote, unquote, release and subsequent repair. When I
4 think about Hilcorp, another thing that I think about is
5 it wasn't too long ago when we were talking about
6 potential rolling brownouts in Anchorage and a shortage of
7 natural gas for our community. And Hilcorp was one of the
8 companies that stepped in and has turned around the Cook
9 Inlet production to our benefit, and now we are talking
10 about being able to have longer-term commitments for
11 natural gas for our utilities here in Anchorage and the
12 Railbelt and even talking about possibly helping Fairbanks
13 with these resources.

14 And so when I think about projects, I'd rather be
15 thinking about things like that and what we can do to
16 encourage more development and more responsible resource
17 opportunities for the next generation as well as the
18 current generation here in Alaska.

19 And so I'm a vote yes. Thank you.

20 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you very much.
21 If you can pick the next ticket, please, and read the last
22 three digits.

23 MR. REED CHRISTENSEN: 012.

24 DR. JAMES KENDALL: 012. Thank you very
25 much. Sir, the floor is yours.

1 MR. JIM ARLINGTON: Thank you very much.
2 Good evening. My name is Jim Arlington. I'm the Business
3 Development and Marketing Director for Afognak Leasing,
4 LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Afognak Native
5 Corporation. In addition to working for Afognak, I have
6 been a land attorney or land manager for ARCO Exploration,
7 Chevron, Forest Oil, Forcenergy and Linc Energy, so I'm
8 quite familiar with this type of technology and the type
9 of proposal that's been proposed by Hilcorp.

10 Afognak Native Corporation was organized in 1977
11 through a merger of two village corporations established
12 pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of
13 1971, hereinafter collectively referred to in my testimony
14 just as Afognak.

15 I'm speaking here tonight on behalf of Afognak to
16 support the Hilcorp Alaska, LLC -- or just Hilcorp --
17 Liberty project as described in the Draft Environmental
18 Impact Statement, or DEIS, prepared by the Bureau of Ocean
19 Energy Management, or BOEM, to allow the Liberty project
20 to move forward. Afognak appreciates this opportunity to
21 provide testimony in response to the call for comments as
22 a result of Hilcorp -- hereinafter the applicant, as
23 well -- submitting its permit applications to develop a
24 light oil reservoir in nearshore federal waters many, many
25 years ago.

1 NEPA guidelines require that an EIS briefly specify
2 the underlying purpose and need to which the agency is
3 responding. The NEPA purpose and need statement is
4 developed through consideration of the purpose and need
5 stated by the applicant. The testimony Afognak is
6 providing this evening is provided to help BOEM to
7 determine that the applicant's proposed project,
8 Alternative 1, is the least environmentally damaging
9 practicable alternative, LEDPA.

10 To provide context for the comments Afognak is
11 providing tonight, I think it's important that BOEM know
12 something about Afognak's work history in the Arctic,
13 specifically on the North Slope of Alaska, and also
14 Afognak's work history with the Liberty project. Afognak
15 has many years of experience providing successful housing
16 options to its clients, which include many of the oil and
17 gas operators on the North Slope, such as Exxon Mobil, BP,
18 Repsol, Nordaq, ConocoPhillips, Alyeska Pipeline Service
19 Company and Armstrong Energy.

20 Afognak has been carefully and rigorously reviewed
21 many times by a multitude of oil and gas companies, and
22 based on our experience, past performance, aggressive
23 schedule, design efficiencies, operational excellence and
24 commitment to safety and providing attractive lease and
25 purchase options, Afognak has been the proud recipient of

1 many sole source awards. The following are just a few
2 examples of that: Worley Parsons, their Sea Lion Camp in
3 Deadhorse; Shell Oil Company, 60-bed living facility in
4 Barrow; ExxonMobil Global Services base of operations in
5 Deadhorse; the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company Eagle
6 Lodge in Deadhorse; and Repsol, providing three camps for
7 their exploration activities for their Pikka Unit now
8 operated by Armstrong.

9 These sole source awards were based on Afognak's
10 history of effective schedule execution, competitive
11 price, efficiency, safety and project performance.

12 In addition to those sole source contracts, Afognak,
13 through its predecessor in interest, provided BP,
14 Hilcorp's predecessor in interest, the original Liberty
15 drill camp and office facility, a three-story, 160-bed
16 modular living facility at the Endicott SDI.

17 Consequently, Afognak is in a unique position to
18 evaluate the applicant, Hilcorp's, remote Arctic drilling
19 operations. Based on Afognak's extensive experience
20 working with and serving oil and gas operators on the
21 North Slope of Alaska, Afognak can confidently assert that
22 the applicant, Hilcorp, is one of the most environmentally
23 responsible and conscientious operators on the North Slope
24 of Alaska.

25 In addition to the applicant's environmentally

1 responsible operating culture and practices that make them
2 a welcome operator on the North Slope of Alaska, their
3 proposed project will address the following needs and
4 concerns: Liberty is an important project for Alaska, as
5 we have already heard, as it will produce an estimated
6 60,000 to 70,000 barrels of oil per day, creating hundreds
7 of jobs. The Liberty production island will be well
8 protected from the polar ice pack, sheltered by a belt of
9 offshore barrier islands. The Liberty project builds upon
10 more than 30 years of proven technology and safe operation
11 in the shallow waters of the Beaufort Sea.

12 As we've already heard, artificial islands in the
13 Beaufort Sea date back to the mid 1970s. In the last 40
14 years, 18 islands have been responsibly constructed for
15 exploration and development of oil and gas. The offshore
16 Liberty pipeline will be buried in the subsea floor and
17 will include automatic leak detection, temperature
18 monitoring technology, proven technology utilized on
19 existing production islands in the region.

20 The island would be similar to the four oil and gas
21 producing islands currently in operation in the state
22 waters of the Beaufort Sea: Spy Island, North Island,
23 Endicott Island and Oooguruk Island. The island will be
24 used for wells, production facilities, a camp, utilities,
25 and a dedicated area for a relief well. To minimize its

1 environmental footprint, no permanent road or causeway
2 would connect it to the mainland.

3 The rigorous multi-year permitting process for
4 Liberty has addressed the concerns that were raised during
5 the previous comment period. Approximately 60 federal,
6 state and local permits and authorizations are required
7 before the project can move forward. Acquiring these
8 permits and meeting the rigorous standards to meet and
9 protect the environment will protect the public's concern
10 so that they can be assured that the North Slope energy
11 development and environmental stewardship will coexist
12 responsibly.

13 Industry has a proven record of accomplishment, of
14 responsible development in environmentally sensitive
15 areas, protecting the environment, wildlife and
16 subsistence needs of local citizens. Since BOEM must
17 consider the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of
18 the project, Afognak firmly believes that BOEM should
19 approve the applicant's proposed action, Alternative 1,
20 and allow the project to move forward since this
21 alternative is the least environmentally damaging
22 practicable alternative.

23 Thank you very much.

24 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you, sir. If
25 you would pull out the next ticket and read the last three

1 digits.

2 MR. JIM ARLINGTON: Lucky No. 018. 018.

3 DR. JAMES KENDALL: The floor is yours,
4 sir.

5 MR. BLAKE KOPCHO: Good evening. My name
6 is Blake Kopcho. I'm with the Center for Biological
7 Diversity. We are a national nonprofit dedicated to
8 protecting threatened species and wild places. The agency
9 should adopt the no action alternative and reject
10 Hilcorp's Liberty project proposal for the following
11 reasons: One, despite what many have promised here this
12 evening, there is simply no safe way to drill in the
13 Arctic Ocean. Oil spills are not only an inevitable but
14 routine part of offshore oil drilling. In fact, the DEIS
15 finds the project will cause at least 70 oil spills over
16 its lifetime, or roughly three spills each year. But it
17 discounts the fact that an oil spill would be impossible
18 to clean up in the frigid Arctic.

19 Further, a large spill from the project could kill or
20 harm a variety of Arctic wildlife, including polar bears,
21 bowhead whales, ice seals and fish.

22 Oil companies have guaranteed safe operations to
23 communities in Valdez, the Gulf of Mexico and Santa
24 Barbara over the years, and we all know how projects in
25 those locations turned out.

1 Scientists also tell us that drilling for oil in the
2 Arctic Ocean is incompatible with avoiding the worst
3 impacts of climate change. In order to have a chance at
4 limiting warming to two degrees celsius or less, we must
5 keep the door shut to all new Arctic Ocean drilling.

6 And again, contrary to what has been said here this
7 evening, Hilcorp has a documented history of accidents and
8 safety violations, which heighten the numerous and
9 inherent risks with offshore drilling in the Arctic.

10 The Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, who
11 is here this evening, cited Hilcorp for over two dozen
12 violations between April 2012 and May 2016. According to
13 the Commission, the disregard for regulatory compliance is
14 endemic to Hilcorp's approach to its Alaska operations,
15 and its conduct is inexcusable. And if Hilcorp can't even
16 stop a gas leak under the ice in Cook Inlet, then it has
17 no business drilling its Liberty project in the Arctic
18 where sea conditions are even more treacherous.

19 Hilcorp's complete and utter neglect for safety
20 regulations, the environment and worker safety, combined
21 with the inherent dangers of offshore drilling in the
22 Arctic and the current climate emergency all make the
23 agency's choice crystal clear: Reject this reckless
24 project.

25 Thank you.

1 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you, sir. If
2 you wouldn't mind picking the next number.

3 MR. BLAKE KOPCHO: 010.

4 MR. BOB STINSON: Thank you. Thanks for
5 the opportunity to submit my comments in support of the
6 Liberty project. My name is Bob Stinson. I'm a 42-year
7 Alaska resident and Senior Vice President of Price Gregory
8 International's Alaska division. Price Gregory is a
9 worldwide energy infrastructure construction company
10 specializing in large diameter oil and gas pipelines and
11 facilities. We have been in Alaska since 1973 when we
12 built part of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and have built
13 many of the pipelines on the North Slope, including the
14 two recent offshore pipelines in the Beaufort Sea to
15 Oooguruk and the Nikaitchuq Islands. These were built to
16 connect oil production from offshore -- very similar to
17 Liberty island -- to the North Slope infrastructure and
18 ultimately to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

19 The Liberty project development plan follows very
20 closely to these two projects and is modeled after the
21 Northstar Island project built in 2001, which has proven
22 to have an excellent environment and production record.
23 The pipeline design uses the same features as the previous
24 projects, including burial in shallow water, oil
25 production pipe within another pipe for added

1 environmental protection, and back-up leak detection
2 systems. Construction methods for installing the Liberty
3 pipeline system are also similar and proven to be easily
4 accomplished, lessening the risk for environmental damage.

5 Alaska's economy and the overall health of the state
6 is tied to oil production, but the Trans-Alaska Pipeline
7 is only one quarter full. The Liberty project represents
8 a positive step towards perpetuation of the oil and gas
9 industry in Alaska by curtailing oil production decline at
10 this crucial time in Alaska's history. The potential oil
11 production from Liberty would be one important step in not
12 only arresting the decline but increasing TAPS throughput.

13 Hilcorp, along with its partners BP and Arctic Slope,
14 have proven not only to be stewards of the environment on
15 oil development projects, but also stewards of Alaska's
16 economy by investing in exploration and production of
17 fields like Cook Inlet, Milne Point, Northstar and now
18 Liberty.

19 I strongly support the Liberty project and the
20 expeditious approval of Alternative 1 in the draft EIS.

21 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Pick out and read the
22 last three digits.

23 MR. BOB STINSON: 019.

24 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you very much.
25 019.

1 MS. KRISTEN MONSELL: Good evening. My
2 name is Kristen Monsell, and I'm with the Center for
3 Biological Diversity. On behalf of the Center, I urge
4 BOEM to reject Hilcorp's dangerous Arctic drilling
5 project. If approved, the project would be the first
6 surface development on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf
7 and the first oil production from fully within federal
8 Arctic waters. Approving new fossil fuel infrastructure
9 and decades of new drilling in the Arctic at a time when
10 science tells us we should be rapidly transitioning to
11 clean energy to avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate
12 change would be reckless and irresponsible. Approval of
13 the project would also be unlawful.

14 Specifically, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
15 required that oil production be balanced with protection
16 of the human, marine and coastal environments. In keeping
17 with this overall goal, OCSLA expressly mandates that BOEM
18 reject a project when its implementation would probably
19 cause serious harm or damage to the marine, coastal or
20 human environment when weighed against the potential
21 advantages of allowing production.

22 OCSLA also requires BOEM to reject a project when the
23 leaseholder has failed to demonstrate they can comply with
24 applicable federal laws. The Liberty project will cause a
25 wide variety of serious harms to the environment,

1 including greenhouse gas and black carbon emissions that
2 will exacerbate climate change and loss of sea ice, oil
3 spills that would be impossible to clean up, and the
4 project will further harm already imperiled wildlife, such
5 as polar bears and bowhead whales.

6 The significance of these impacts clearly outweigh
7 any purported benefits of the project. This is true when
8 the impacts are considered individually, and particularly
9 true when they are considered in the aggregate. They are
10 also particularly true considering Hilcorp's track record
11 of spills and noncompliance with environmental and safety
12 regulations and requirements in Alaska.

13 As you have already heard, the Alaska Oil and Gas
14 Conservation Commission has cited the company for numerous
15 violations since the company started operating in Alaska.
16 These violations include things like failure to test
17 blowout prevention equipment before using it and the
18 unapproved use of nitrogen gas that caused three workers
19 to lose consciousness. And the Commission has said that
20 nothing but luck prevented their death.

21 Hilcorp has also been sent numerous warning letters
22 from federal pipeline regulators for probable violations
23 of pipeline safety regulations, and the company has had
24 numerous oil spills and other incidents, both at its
25 drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico and here in

1 Alaska, including a gas leak earlier this year from an
2 offshore pipeline in Cook Inlet that leaked for nearly
3 four months before it was fixed by the company.

4 While all Arctic drilling is inherently dangerous,
5 Hilcorp's track record makes a dangerous situation even
6 more risky. BOEM should therefore reject this project and
7 adopt the no action alternative.

8 Thank you.

9 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you for your
10 comments. Pick the next number.

11 MS. KRISTEN MONSELL: 011.

12 MS. BARBARA HUFF TUCKNESS: I want to
13 thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EIS draft.
14 I believe that this project is extremely important to not
15 only Alaska, but all Alaskans.

16 Before I elaborate, I would like to introduce myself.
17 For the record, my name is Barbara Huff Tuckness. I'm the
18 Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs for
19 Teamsters Local 959. I am here tonight to speak on behalf
20 of Rick Boyles, who is our Secretary-Treasurer and,
21 unfortunately, unable to attend the hearing this evening.

22 Our members number about 7,000 and are employed in
23 numerous job opportunities throughout the state, including
24 construction workers, warehouse positions, truck drivers,
25 telecommunications workers, health care workers, as well

1 as airline pilots, just to name a few.

2 Early in the 1980s we thought that by this time
3 Prudhoe Bay would be dead or, at best, in the final throes
4 of a sputtering downward spiral. But every year it seems
5 doomsday has been nudged back a little bit at a time on
6 this line, mainly because of the developing technology
7 that has allowed oil producers to keep extending the life
8 of the enormous field. As frontline, hardworking people,
9 our members understand the reality and the implications of
10 oil production. That's one of the reasons we feel
11 strongly about Liberty.

12 Development of Liberty will provide real and
13 substantial benefits to our members and other Alaskans
14 through production of jobs and new business opportunities,
15 as well.

16 Hilcorp has committed to employ qualified Alaskans by
17 recruiting staff and contractors locally, hiring out of
18 union hiring halls and encouraging their contractors to do
19 the same. At the peak of the Liberty construction, there
20 will be hundreds of good paying construction jobs, 60 to
21 80 drilling jobs, as well as full-time opportunities for
22 20-plus years after the conclusion of construction.

23 Alaskans hired directly to work on the Liberty
24 project are not the only ones who will benefit. Most of
25 the money spent on this project will stay in Alaska, with

1 local contractors figuring prominently in construction and
2 the development. A broad range of companies -- insurance,
3 lodging, business services, transportation, utilities, as
4 well as communications -- will see indirect benefits
5 through the boost to our state economy. That means jobs
6 for many, many Alaskans in our state.

7 Alaska is a great a place to work, a great place to
8 raise our families and to enjoy the outdoors. A thumbs up
9 on Liberty sooner rather than later will help more
10 Alaskans stay here in the coming years.

11 Finally, I want to take a moment to talk about the
12 environment. Thank goodness I think we are past the days
13 of the greenies and the oilies. We all care deeply about
14 protecting this land and its habitat. We respect the
15 Inupiat culture and its reliance on whaling for
16 subsistence.

17 With modern advanced technology, is it shown that
18 development of our land resources can occur with little
19 disturbance to the environment. We have and we continue
20 to support environmentally sound development.
21 Liberty can be developed with care and protection for the
22 environment. In this day and age, none of us expect
23 anything less. From what I have seen, this project can be
24 done with minimum impacts to valuable environmental
25 resources.

1 We respectfully request the Liberty EIS be moved
2 forward. Any further delay means reduced revenues and
3 lost job opportunities for many Alaskans and our families.

4 And I thank you for the opportunity to speak.

5 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you very much.
6 If you would pick the next name, please, and read the next
7 number, last three digits.

8 MS. BARBARA HUFF TUCKNESS: 27.

9 DR. JAMES KENDALL: 27. The number 27.
10 The floor is yours.

11 MS. MARLEANNA HALL: Thank you. Good
12 evening. My name is Marleanna Hall. I am here testifying
13 on behalf of myself. I am Inupiat Eskimo and a lifelong
14 Alaskan, and I'm here to testify in support of allowing
15 the Liberty project to move forward. As an Alaskan, I
16 understand that our economy is based on natural resource
17 development, and I believe that it can be done responsibly
18 in coexistence with wildlife and other subsistence and
19 other cultural uses of the land in our great state.

20 I play, live and work here, and I think it's
21 important that people understand that jobs are important
22 to all Alaskans.

23 I just have very brief testimony, but I do urge BOEM
24 to move quickly and to support approval of this project
25 and move forward with the project itself.

1 Thank you.

2 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you for your
3 comments. If you would select the next number, please.

4 MS. MARLEANNA HALL: 017.

5 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you very much.
6 017. 017. Okay.

7 Then how about if we pick another one. Sir, would
8 you pick the next number.

9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: That would be
10 016.

11 DR. JAMES KENDALL: 016. 016. Okay.
12 Let's try this again.

13 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Two left.
14 013.

15 DR. JAMES KENDALL: 013. The floor is
16 yours, sir.

17 MR. CHRIS LEDGERWOOD: Thank you, and good
18 evening. My name is Chris Ledgerwood. I am the general
19 manager of Nanuq, Incorporated, a wholly-owned subsidiary
20 of the Kuukpik Corporation from the Village of Nuiqsut.
21 I'm also a professional engineer with a strict focus in
22 the Arctic work and a resident of this state residing
23 right here in Anchorage. I am testifying on behalf of
24 myself, my wife and our two children.

25 I support responsible development and recommend

1 approval of the proposed action of the draft EIS. This
2 proven approach has been used for over 30 years, utilizing
3 a substantial amount of existing infrastructure to get the
4 oil to market. This project would put additional oil in
5 the TAPS, in the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, bringing more
6 money to the state of Alaska and Alaskans through jobs,
7 royalties and taxes. This project is important to
8 reducing our current unemployment rate, which is among the
9 highest in the United States.

10 The extensive permitting process required for this
11 project has already addressed the concerns that have been
12 brought forth. Hilcorp is currently working with the
13 local whalers to ensure that they are able to provide
14 meaningful conflict avoidance for the fall subsistence
15 whaling. The subsea pipeline proposed will be buried
16 below the scour line for protection from the ice with a
17 proven leak detection system that has been used in many
18 projects.

19 I know these points are factual, as I've reviewed
20 Hilcorp's plan and been involved in the development of
21 Northstar Island, Oooguruk Island and Nikaitchuq Spy
22 Island as a civil contractor. We also safely expanded
23 Endicott's SDI and BP's first attempt to develop this
24 reservoir closer to shore. In addition to that, we
25 logistically support the Nuiqsut whalers each season with

1 their seasonal subsistence hunt on Cross Island.

2 For that I recommend adopting proposed plan 1 for the
3 draft EIS. Thank you.

4 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you, sir.

5 MR. CHRIS LEDGERWOOD: 009.

6 MR. AVES THOMPSON: Thank you. Thank you
7 for allowing us to testify tonight. My name is Aves
8 Thompson. I'm the Executive Director of the Alaska
9 Trucking Association. The Alaska Trucking Association is
10 a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) statewide trade association
11 representing the interests of our nearly 200 member
12 companies from Barrow to Ketchikan. Freight movement
13 represents a large chunk of our economy and impacts all of
14 us each and every day. The simple truth is that if you
15 got it, a truck brought it.

16 Mr. Chairman, our testimony today is about jobs. We
17 see that this project will bring much needed jobs that
18 will help Alaska recover from the economic blow she has
19 suffered over the last few years. State and local
20 spending of taxes and royalties paid by the oil and gas
21 industry directly creates jobs in the public sector and
22 indirectly creates jobs throughout the private sector.

23 The project would generate significant long-term
24 business and economic activity. For each direct oil
25 industry job, 20 additional jobs are generated in the

1 Alaska economy. And our industry would be part of those
2 additional jobs generated in the Alaska economy.

3 Alaska's economic lifeline, TAPS, is now running at
4 three-quarters empty. Liberty will increase TAPS
5 throughput, helping to keep it operating longer and more
6 efficiently.

7 BOEM should approve the proposed action in the DEIS
8 and allow the Liberty project to move forward. Liberty is
9 an important project for Alaska, as it will produce an
10 estimated 60- to 70,000 barrels of oil per day, creating
11 hundreds of new jobs and providing royalty payments to the
12 State of Alaska as well as tax revenue to the North Slope
13 Borough. The Alaska Trucking Association urges BOEM to
14 approve the proposed action in the DEIS.

15 Thank you.

16 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you, sir. The
17 two numbers that we read, we think they belong to Jim
18 Udelhoven and Jeff Baker.

19 Okay. We are here for a while yet. Those are the
20 end of the numbers I have. So why don't we take a
21 ten-minute break to give our court reporter a break, and
22 then we can convene in ten minutes, and if anybody else
23 wants to come up and offer testimony --

24 Sir? Why don't you take it right now before we
25 break.

1 MR. ANDY MACK: Thank you very much. I
2 appreciate, Jim, you letting me testify here. I didn't
3 sign up. But my name is Andy Mack. I'm the Commissioner
4 of the Department of Natural Resources for the State of
5 Alaska. It's a pleasure to be here and see so many of you
6 here in the crowd tonight. I figure if the CBD sent a
7 couple folks to testify, I certainly want to stand up and
8 offer my thoughts.

9 I would like to reflect very briefly on what is the
10 Northstar project. I think Northstar is representative of
11 a project where folks without all of the answers to some
12 of the questions that were being asked at the time that
13 project was built were doing their best to understand what
14 the impacts might be, what the benefits might be.

15 One of the things that happened when they developed
16 Northstar is they decided they were going to take a real
17 deep dive and look very closely at the impacts on marine
18 mammals, on the impacts of whales. And to this day they
19 continue to do that. And I think the analysis and the
20 development of that information has been used very wisely,
21 and they have continued to look for ways to lower the
22 impacts and to try to understand and make sure that
23 whatever they are doing on that island has as few impacts
24 as possible.

25 We have also now seen the development of Nikaitchuq

1 and Ooguruk, which are shallow water island facilities.
2 Each of these facilities on its own, frankly, they are not
3 giant fields, but they are all very, very important to the
4 economy of Alaska, to what goes on on the North Slope.
5 And the information -- and the reason I bring up Northstar
6 and focus on it a little bit is I think it's really
7 relevant as we continue to examine what we do in the
8 ocean. I think BOEM has done a really solid job of
9 evaluating those impacts. I think the analysis and the
10 study work that has been done over the last handful of
11 years has been very, very important. I think it can drive
12 the decisionmaking process here.

13 The State of Alaska would like to see this project
14 move forward very much. We support this project. And I
15 think that what we have is we have got a fairly
16 significant body of information now. And like I say, it
17 started with Northstar, but it continued with Nikaitchuq
18 and Ooguruk, which should give people comfort that we can
19 manage those impacts as we move forward.

20 And there is no doubt. There is no doubt at all that
21 the economic benefits are substantial. So I would like to
22 thank BOEM for the work they have put in on this project.
23 It's one of the projects in Alaska that's been studied
24 very, very extensively, and I think that it's a good
25 project.

1 So we will be submitting extensive and detailed
2 written comments as we normally do, but I thought I would
3 stand up here at the hearing and express our strong
4 support for this project. Thank you.

5 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Thank you very much.
6 All right. Let's take a ten-minute break to give our
7 court reporter a little breather here. And then we can
8 come back, and if anybody else wants to come up, we will
9 stay here as long as we need to. Thank you.

10 (A break was taken.)

11 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Okay. Ladies and
12 gentlemen, if we want to reconvene, if there is any more
13 testimony that wishes to be given, I have an open mic and
14 I've got an empty floor. So keeping with the previous
15 rules, we are going for five minutes or less. If anybody
16 would like to offer testimony, we are open for business.
17 And also if someone would prefer not to speak publicly,
18 they can sit in front of Mary and offer their testimony.
19 We are also good with that.

20 Is anyone else interested in coming up and offering
21 their comments on the Draft Environmental Impact
22 Statement? Again, this is a not a decision document. It
23 is an informational document for the decisionmaker to
24 grasp, you know, what this project is about and potential
25 environmental impacts. So this document will not make the

1 decision. That's why we are adamant that we need the best
2 possible document so the decisionmaker has all the
3 information in front of them.

4 And I have an open mic for anybody that would like to
5 give comments, five minutes or less, or you can sit in
6 front of Mary and do it more private. And we can accept
7 comments till November 18th. And we have computers in the
8 back if you just want to sit down and find regs.gov and
9 type your comments in there. We are trying to be as
10 responsible as possible and make it as easy as possible
11 for people to offer comments.

12 Anybody else? Because what we typically do, then, is
13 I close the mic down for another 10 or 15 minutes to give
14 people time to reflect and decide if they really want to
15 come up here or not. We don't really want to leave too
16 early. Okay.

17 That being said, this is a public hearing. We are
18 now off record, Mary, for the next 15 minutes to see if
19 anybody has second thoughts and wants to join us up here
20 at the mic or sit with Mary and offer their testimony
21 directly. And we have the computers in the back. So we
22 are down now till 20 minutes till 9:00. Thank you.

23 (Off the record.)

24 DR. JAMES KENDALL: Okay. Ladies and
25 gentlemen, as promised, it's 20 minutes to 9:00. We were

1 going to start again to see if anybody wanted to offer any
2 more comments for the record. You can either come up here
3 and speak publicly or sit down with Mary Vavrik and offer,
4 or sit at the computers. So I guess this is going to be
5 probably the last time. So does anyone have anything to
6 offer for the record? Or you can just send it to us
7 through regs.gov and we will call it an evening.

8 And no, Dave, I'm not going to dance.

9 With that, I want to thank everybody for coming this
10 evening. You provided a lot of useful comments. A
11 reminder, the comment period runs through November 18th.
12 So get online, regs.gov, and help us make the document the
13 best it could be. It is informational, not a decision
14 document.

15 With that, I will close the public hearing on the
16 Liberty Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

17 Thank you very much, and have a good evening.

18 (Proceedings adjourned at 8:44 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that the proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later transcribed under my direction by computer transcription; that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken at that time; and that I am not a party to nor have I any interest in the outcome of the action herein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my hand and affixed my seal this _____ day of October 2017.

MARY A. VAVRIK,
Registered Merit Reporter
Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2020

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