

AFN looks forward to new relationship

September 25, 1981
Honorable George Sullivan
Municipality of Anchorage
Pouch 6-650
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear George:

The role of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. has been one of acting as the sounding board for concerns voiced by

Native people throughout the state. It would therefore be the appropriate body to involve in the review and possible endorsement of the center at such time as a presentation is presented for action from the convention floor.

The proposal submitted by the Alaska Native Social and Recreation Center, Inc. outlines the process by which they

plan to arrive at point where they may begin to aid the Municipality in its goal to make Anchorage a better place to live and to visit.

I look forward to working with this group as they proceed with this project.

Thanking you for your services, I am,

Sincerely,
Frank Ferguson
President

No decision on Yukon leases

Ms. Elizabeth A. Chikigak, Vice President
Ms. Teri L. Curren, Project Director
P.O. Box 58
Alakanuk, AK 99554

Dear Ms. Chikigak and Ms. Curren:

Thank you for your letter of September 2 relative to your concerns regarding the proposed Oil and Gas Lease Sale No.38 in the Yukon Delta area. Please be assured that I am most sensitive to your concerns; however, the State of Alaska has not made a decision on whether to open offshore state lands in the Yukon Delta area for oil and gas leasing. The source of your information does a disservice to both you and the State by creating an atmosphere of misinformation and distrust.

The decision process has just begun, and any conclusions will be reached only after a detailed social, economic, and environmental analysis has been completed. If the process has integrity, then the very real concerns of individuals such as you will be addressed during that process. We are certainly

aware of significant environmental and social considerations which must be studied and resolved to the greatest extent possible before any leasing could occur.

The Norton Basin sale is currently scheduled for January 1983. A final decision on whether to proceed will not be made until October 1982. In April 1982, we anticipate that a draft social, economic, and environmental analysis will be distributed to the public and that public meetings will then be held in affected communities.

By September 1982, I anticipate that a preliminary finding, which sets out the issues and facts regarding the sale, will be made by the Department of Natural Resources and will be distributed to the public for comment. After these comments are received, Commissioner Katz will evaluate all the issues surrounding the sale. Should a decision be made to proceed, a final notice of the sale spelling out all environmental and other terms and conditions will be issued. Again, the public will have an opportunity to comment on the final sale notice.

I sincerely trust that the process which I have outlined answers your concern that local residents have a significant voice in decisions which affect their everyday life. I appreciate your bringing your concerns to my attention and I would hope that you have an opportunity to correct the misperception that a decision regarding the proposed sale has already been made.

Sincerely,
Jay S. Hammond
Governor



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