

# Of pipelines and caribou . . .

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My name is Pat Hugo, and I would like to give my statement on behalf of the Native People here, who have not had the opportunity to get the formal Education that we of the younger Generation have.

My parents, and older people like them, do not have the education they need to understand and cope with the power games the White Man is playing, or how to defend themselves from being taken advantage of.

Even though they have not spent years in schools and colleges, they are not uneducated. They carry with them the Knowledge and Wisdom, about this Land that was learned not from books, but by Experience and by the Knowledge passed down to them from their Parents and their Parents Parents. They are Historians, and they are Ecologists from a Lifetime of Experience, and they will help us, as best as they can to keep what we believe is our Land, and our way of Life, as we have lived it for Generations after Generations for thousands of years.

Since the 1800's, We, the Inupiat, have been in contact with the White Man; they have always wanted what was ours, Whales, Furs, Caribou Meat, and our Women. In return, they gave us, Guns, Coffee, Flour, Whiskey, and Sickness. Now they want our Oil, our Land, and our way of Life.

These they cannot have, the Numamiut Inupiat have survived many efforts to keep what is their own.

We can see it happening now with the Caribou, it has always been the Major Food Source of the Northern Eskimo for thousands of years. It is an Animal that has been migrating thru the Mountains down to the Coast, and even to Canada. This we know from our Elders, who have followed the Herds long before the Pipeline was built.

They followed these routes, until an obstacle was put in their way — the Pipeline, which blocked their movements since then, the Herds has started dwindling and getting smaller.

The State says that the reason, there are less Caribou is because We, the Northern Eskimos slaughtered the Herds, our Main Food Source, in a few years. The Food we have eaten for as long as History.

But we have been watching for years, and see that the Pipeline cut off Caribou Migration Routes. This was a big loss for the Eskimoes, because the larger part of the Herd did not make it back to this side, before they were stopped.

Now what happens, when Oil and Minerals are discovered in NPR-A? Pipelines will have to be built to connect the many Oil Wells to the Alaska Pipeline, before long there will be Roads and Pipelines and People, crisscrossing the North Slope.

Wild Animals can't live near People and Industries, you know that from the Lower 48's. The North Slope and Brooks Range is the last great Wilderness — there is nowhere else for these Animals to go, and without the Animals we cannot survive.

Now the time has come to develop NPR-A. Right now you are drilling several wells all over the Reserve, and looking for other places to do the same. If you find Oil, you will either have to get it over to the Alyeska Pipeline or build a new one, either way that will mean a network of smaller pipelines crisscrossing the North Slope to connect the scattered Oil Wells with the main lines. Those will be more obstacles to the Caribou.

If you do build another major Pipeline, it will probably be put thru low easy passes, maybe thru the Killik Valley or Howard Pass, just like the Oil Companies originally wanted to build the Pipeline through Anaktuvuk Pass. The places you will choose will be the easiest way to go thru Anaktuvuk Pass. The places you will choose will be the easiest way to go thru the Mountains — these are the same places the Caribou migrate thru. For the (See WHAT HAPPENS, Page 8.)

# What happens when caribou are gone? NSB asks

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same reasons — the easiest way to get thru.

We have seen what happens to the Caribou after the first Pipeline was built. What will happen when other lines are built? Maybe you don't think the pipeline had anything to do with the Caribou Crisis, but how

come there wasn't a problem with Caribou until about the same time work on the Pipeline got started?

As you mine and prospect and drill for Oil, these same things will happen all over the North Slope and one day there will be no place left for the animals to go when the animals

are gone so will our Way of Life.

(Editor's Note: The above

was edited from a report developed for Bob Worl, NSB Representative of the Task Force of

National Petroleum Reserve — Alaska, NPR-A.)

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